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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-246 *22 December 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Discuss DOP Implementation

'Arafat, Peres View Gaza Meeting

JN2112195394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Dec 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun's in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chief and head of the National Authority, has stated that his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was positive. He was speaking at a press conference held by President 'Arafat and Minister Peres at the end of their talks at 'Arafat's headquarters in Gaza at noon today.

I hope we will complete our journey until the full implementation of the Declaration of Principles, President 'Arafat said. Asked whether progress has been made in the implementation of the DOP, President 'Arafat said we feel there is movement. It is important, he added, that we take security concerns into account. President 'Arafat said he hoped powers in the West Bank will pass to the Palestinian National Authority soon. Agreement was reached on the formation of two committees to tackle the important issues, President 'Arafat said. We agreed to begin addressing the second stage of the DOP within the coming 10 days at talks to be held in Cairo, he added. We will convene top level talks If these prove necessary. Such meetings will be held at Erez. Alternatively, we could hold contacts in another format, President 'Arafat added.

For his part, Shim'on Peres said: We decided to pursue our talks at two levels, the first involving chairman 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to tackle intricate and complex questions, notably the redeployment of Israeli troops and the transfer of power and security. The second will be a committee to discuss the implementation of the agreement. It will concern itself with the elections and freeing Palestinian detainees, borders, and the economy. We have not demanded an amendment to the Oslo accord and we are working on its implementation, Peres said.

Sha'th: Talks Showed Commitment to DOP

JN2112201994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, by unidentified correspondent on 21 December; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening to you.

[Correspondent] You attended the talks His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held today. What can you tell us about the meeting?

[Sha'th] The meeting was convened to demonstrate commitment to the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. I don't think the session produced anything beyond that, important as that in itself is. The session was held against the background of local and world press reports about this issue, as the second stage of the DOP, which is the more important, draws near. We are talking about the West Bank, Jerusalem, withdrawal from Palestinian territory that has more strategic significance for Israel. The meeting confirms a total commitment to the DOP, an absence of an Israeli desire to see it amended, and Israel's determination to negotiate its implementation with the highest echelons of the Palestinian National Authority and specifics of an Israeli withdrawal and redeployment and transfer of powers with lower level officials. This is in addition to talks in Cairo about the elections. The next week or the one following that there will be a meeting by the liaison committee chaired by Shim'on Peres and myself to discuss pending problems. This format of negotiations is to press ahead with the implementation of the DOP, which is the more important issue.

[Correspondent] But this is in conflict with what is taking place on the ground.

[Sha'th] There is no doubt that expanding some settlements, notably Ma'aleh Adumim and maybe other outposts, in addition to the confiscation of land for road building and boosting the settler population are both cause for deepest concern to the Palestinian Authority and every Palestinian. We raised that at today's meeting. We will also address that issue soon at the liaison committee. It is important that today's agreement be translated at the higher level talks. It is important that this commitment translate into withdrawal. It is withdrawal that protects land.

[Correspondent] Has today's session produced agreement on a timetable to implement the transfer of power?

[Sha'th] No. That did not come up.

[Correspondent] You mean the talks concerned themselves with implementation of the DOP.

[Sha'th] That's right.

[Correspondent] Are you happy with the meeting?

[Sha'th] I can't be happy before the land is liberated. In my opinion, satisfaction is subject to implementation. I will be happy to see commitment at a time when there has been much talk in Israel about a possible backtracking on the DOP's section addressing the West Bank. I will be truly happy when the withdrawal begins to take place as happened in Gaza and Jericho. We had before

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us then a map on which we negotiated. When I see a map on the table I will then feel that we have moved a step forward.

[Correspondent] Israel is said by some to be trying to destroy the Oslo accord.

[Sha'th] There may have been signs pointing in that direction in some of what has been said over the past few weeks. Mr. Peres, however, today emphasized that nothing of the kind was contemplated. Indeed, he talked about Oslo and its historic importance.

[Correspondent] Israel's military generals seem to be prevailing on the politicians regarding unwarranted security concerns.

[Sha'th] The Israeli perception of security-related issues is indeed hard to comprehend. I do not mean from a humanitarian angle. Naturally, we want to make sure that the peace process takes account of the security concerns of the two sides. But the Israeli security concerns are sometimes overblown. But when these translate into collective punishment the result is a vicious circle. I hope we will not fall into this trap and that what security concerns there are are well founded so that the two sides may be able to work out an ideal solution.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Agreement Reached on Redeployment Talks

TA2112155194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In their meeting today, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat decided that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and 'Arafat will deal with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories, the security arrangements, and the empowerment of the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria.

Committees on behalf of both sides will discuss the elections, economic issues, and other matters that were not resolved in the Oslo and Cairo agreements, including determining the size of the Jericho area and the stationing of Palestinian policemen on the Allenby Bridge and Rafah border crossings.

'Text' of 'Arafat-Peres Agreement

JN2212074194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Dec 94

["Text" of agreement reached between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. Commitment to the DOP and the non-existence of any desire to amend this agreement, considering it a practical means of implementing the peace process.

2. The immediate start of negotiations on all elements of the second stage of the DOP. These negotiations will take place on two levels. The first is on the level of President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who will discuss and agree to sensitive issues that include redeployment, transfer of powers, and security for both the Palestinians and Israelis. The second is on the level of delegations, which will deal with elections, economic issues, and review of military orders.

3. The two sides agreed to immediately discuss the issue of prisoners and detainees through the competent committee. The higher liaison committee will convene to discuss all remaining issues in the Gaza-Jericho agreement such as the safe passage and other issues. Thus, this heralds the immediate start of serious negotiations on the implementation of the next stage of the agreement.

Palestinian Negotiator on 'Janin-Bethlehem First'

TA2212093294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Karmit Gay; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] Bethlehem and Janin First—Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, is such a plan serious and feasible?

[Abu-Zayyad] Look, everything depends on what this means and on how it will be implemented on the ground. I must say that the situation on the ground is not encouraging and does not make Israel look serious. Over the last few days we have witnessed the confiscation of land and the uprooting of trees. Hundreds of dunams in the northern area—near Kafr Qaddum, Dayr Ballut, and other villages—are being leveled and bypass roads are being paved for the settlements in that area. Two days ago land was even confiscated in the Ramallah and al-Birah area. Land was confiscated within the al-Birah jurisdiction itself for paving a bypass road to the settlement of....

[Gay, interrupting] Such bypass roads, however, are a condition for an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullout from city centers. You should be interested in such bypass roads.

[Abu-Zayyad] Not at all. There is a misunderstanding here. If we are slated to negotiate the future of the settlements, what's the point of investing $1.2 billion for bypass roads in the West Bank? This indicates that Israel does not intend to remove the settlements; thus we can conclude that the time bomb of the settlements continues to tick and may explode at any moment. We must not harbor any illusions or proceed on a path not leading to real peace.

[Gay] We are still in an interim stage. The future of the settlements is not slated to be discussed at the present time, therefore Israel is trying to find a solution for the interim stage.

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[Abu-Zayyad] But why is it establishing facts on the ground which will make it impossible to remove the settlements? Do you think that the continued existence of the settlements as settlements in the midst of the Palestinian population is conducive to peace?

[Gay] So you believe that the idea of Bethlehem and Janin, or any other cities in the West Bank, is not serious?

[Abu-Zayyad] I must say not. A positive step would be, for example, refraining from establishing new facts on the ground which may harm the peace process in its entirety. We must view the peace process in its entirety rather than dissecting it into bits and pieces.

Syrian-Israeli Contacts Said To Have Begun in U.S.

NC2112214594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 21 Dec (MENA)—It was learned from reliable diplomatic sources in Washington today that the Syrian-Israeli contacts arranged by the United States have actually begun in the U.S. capital. The sources said the contacts, which are being held in a very reticent atmosphere, began the day before yesterday, Monday.

The sources added that military representatives from both sides took part in these contacts, the first to be held between the Syrian and Israelis sides since the bilateral talks within the peace process broke up late February.

U.S. sources had leaked information that these contacts have been postponed, but the diplomatic sources confirmed that they have actually begun and that the first meeting was held the day before yesterday, Monday.

The diplomatic sources expected these contacts to continue over the next few months in the form of successive rounds and that the two delegations will go back in the intervals to their governments for consultations over ideas and proposals raised at the meetings.

It was also learned that the U.S. side, which is closely following up on the contacts, is making a special effort to keep the proceedings secret and out of the limelight.

The U.S. State Department spokesman yesterday refused to answer a question regarding the Syrian-Israeli contacts. He said the United States prefers to leave the issue to the two parties concerned should they wish to declare what is happening in these contacts.

Islamic Affairs

Algeria's Sifi Warns ICO of Dangers To Islam

LD2012224894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1937 GMT 20 Dec 94

[Speech by Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi at a closed session of the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, summit conference in Casablanca on 14 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful; peace and prayers on the most honorable messenger. His majesty the king and chairman of the conference; their majesties, highnesses, and excellencies the heads of state; excellencies the heads of governments; ladies and gentlemen. Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [passage omitted]

If I allow myself to refer to the facts about our religion I do so to reaffirm that Islam throughout several centuries has been the cement of the unity and prosperity of this Maghreban nation. I do so also to reaffirm that our righteous religion is being used, manipulated and employed—I very much regret to say—within the framework of confrontations between the major powers. Thus Islam is now directed against Muslims themselves in order to weaken and harm them and leave them in disarray, as well as to exclude them from facing the cultural challenges of the 21st century.

It is a strange paradox that our sons who went as volunteers to help liberate their brethren in religion [in Afghanistan], motivated by sincere faith and fraternal solidarity, should return to us hallucinating, programmed to commit killings and assassinations, [returning] from those who do not need them any more. They failed to restore peace or freedom to those whom they had rushed to help, but they returned to us carrying in their luggage dissension, ignorance, and error.

Your majesty the king, the chairman of the conference, your majesties, your highnesses, your excellencies the heads of state and heads of government, ladies and gentlemen: I beg you and I ask for your understanding because I wish to insist in my address on the dangers surrounding our true religion, our peoples, and the future of our nation. These dangers lie in the use of the Islamic religion for political purposes, and today Algeria is paying a terrible price for the use of religion for political purposes. We will overcome this stage and we are capable of paying its price because we are accustomed to meeting challenges and we will meet this challenge not just for the good of Algeria and the Arab Maghreb, but also and in particular in the interest of Islam itself as a religion, a culture, civilization, progress and development.

Our forefathers contributed a great deal to expanding Islam throughout the world, and our fathers drove the colonialists from our lands. All this was done in the name of Islam. How can we accept today the allegation of those who claim to be helping Islam in our midst, from abroad and under any slogan, particularly from some capitals where peoples are suffering under the yoke of heresy and economic and cultural misery? Who are those Muslims who are declaring jihad against Muslims, slaughtering women and children, burning schools and preventing the learning of knowledge and science, assassinating foreigners, denying democracy, blackmailing citizens, asking for, and getting political asylum, in the name of human rights, the rights that they trample underfoot and do not recognize. [passage omitted]

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The sublime goal of our esteemed organization is the unity of the Islamic states to defend their interests and to confront the economic blocs that are being formed and consolidated before our eyes, as well as to support and help each other in this respect. [passage omitted]

At another level, the danger at this decisive historic juncture is in not taking sufficiently seriously the dangers whose features can be seen on the horizons. Following the end of the cold war, new strategic planners have surfaced seeking who might be the new enemy. Thus, some of them think that this new enemy as far as the West is concerned is Islamism, subsequently Islam, proceeding from a tendentious similarity. In this respect, I would like to ask ourselves quite clearly the following question: Is not this violent Islamism movement which has been increasingly internationalized a ploy to incriminate Islam so as to restrict its influence and curb any tendency or aspiration for achieving economic and cultural development in the Islamic world? [passage omitted]

Your majesty and chairman of the conference; your majesties, highnesses and excellencies the heads of state; your excellencies the heads of government; ladies and gentlemen: I thank you for listening and would like to renew the greetings of the Algerian people and its government. I would like to thank the Moroccan authorities and the fraternal Moroccan people for the warm and nice welcome and hospitality we were given. I conclude my speech by praying to Almighty God to facilitate for us all our meeting at the earliest possible time in Holy Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblahs and the third holy place [of Islam]. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Palestinian Affairs

Bethlehem Mayor Evaluates Peres-'Arafat Meeting

NC2212090094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with Ilyas Frayj, PA member and mayor of Bethlehem, in Bethlehem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] Mr. Frayj, we welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Frayj] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Let us start this dialogue in light of the introduction I gave. Could we claim that the 'Arafat-Peres meeting yesterday for the first time inside the Gaza Strip was a good start toward containing the Palestinian-Israeli conflicts?

[Frayj] There is no doubt that the meeting that took place at President Yasir 'Arafat's headquarters in Gaza with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was of important political significance. In my opinion, the results of the meeting were positive.

[Al-Jundi] How could this meeting pave the way for continuing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating process?

[Frayj] As a Palestinian side, we are fully committed to implementing the Oslo and Cairo agreements. The Israeli side claims that it is also committed. However, the stalling in the implementation is coming only from the Israeli side, not from the Palestinian one. We are very anxious to implement the agreement in accordance with the agreed upon agenda signed in Cairo last May.

[Al-Jundi] Some observers revealed that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have reached an agreement over a compromise in which the Israeli forces withdraw gradually from the West Bank, provided that they start with the town of Janin as a first stage. What is the truth behind these reports?

[Frayj] I believe there is no truth to this information. And assuming that these reports are true, I oppose them. The agreement stipulates the withdrawal of the Israeli Army or Israeli military forces from all residential parts in the occupied West Bank where Arab people are living, without any exception. If we start making exceptions, we will give Israel the opportunity to procrastinate over its withdrawal from Hebron, which is the most sticky issue we have because of the presence of scores of Jewish families living behind the old city of Hebron.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Frayj, it is known that so far Israel continues to doubt Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's ability to impose security control over the Palestinian self-rule areas. Perhaps this is the major motivation behind the Israeli procrastination over withdrawing the Israeli forces from the West Bank in preparation for the elections.

[Frayj] Actually, President 'Arafat is controlling the security situation in the Gaza Strip and Jericho quite well. However, Israel is choking the Arabs by not allowing them to leave and enter Gaza, as well as to leave and enter Jericho, which is causing problems and worries for the citizens. We ask Israel to stop this harassment and treat the Arab citizens when they leave and enter the Gaza Strip with great respect.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Frayj, we know that after a long series of negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, and after a lot of time has passed and efforts exerted to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, we have seen Israel stall the implementation process. Do you believe this will reflect negatively on the security situation in the Gaza Strip, particularly from the factions opposing the peace process with Israel?

[Frayj] I was in Gaza on Saturday to attend the Palestinian Authority [PA] meetings. The situation in the Gaza Strip is very difficult. The difficulties the residents of the Gaza Strip are suffering from are almost indescribable. Gaza is considered a big ghetto, which is closed off

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in the face of the Arab citizens. This cannot be. Israel is holding us responsible for everything, while it seizes Arab land, builds new settlements, and expands existing settlements, as though there is no agreement between us. We want Israel to show good intentions in actions and practice not in words. We want the citizen in the Gaza Strip to be able to move around freely and with dignity.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that the first meeting that took place yesterday between 'Arafat and Peres at President 'Arafat's place of residence in the Gaza Strip is a Palestinian attempt to prove that there is full security inside the Gaza Strip and that President 'Arafat is in full control of the security situation in all parts of Gaza?

[Frayj] I confirm as a witness that the security situation inside the Gaza Strip is good. All foreign visitors who go to the Gaza Strip travel there and back safely. They are respected and treated hospitably while there. The harassment comes only from the Israeli inspection points.

[Al-Jundi] Dear brothers, we thank our guest Mr. Ilyas Frayj, member of the PA, who was with us over the phone lines now. We will always welcome him on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Frayj] Thank you.

Israeli Proposal Said Designed To Delay Withdrawal

TA2112164894 Jericho AL-AQSA in Arabic 16 Dec 94 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Sticking to the 'Procrastination' Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At first glance, the so-called proposal on the redeployment of the occupation forces, which the Israeli delegation is said to have presented at the Cairo talks that ended yesterday, seems to represent major progress which will pave the way to the implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. A closer examination, however, will reveal that this proposal is no more than another attempt to stall implementation of the DOP according to Tel Aviv's timetable.

The proposal, which calls for withdrawal from some Palestinian towns and population centers in return for keeping observation posts in large towns, falls within the framework of Israel's policy of drowning the talks in minute details. This policy seeks to distort the clear provision in the DOP that calls for the withdrawal of the occupation forces to locations outside Palestinian population centers. In essence, the proposal aims to divide Palestinian towns into three groups. In the first group, the status quo will be maintained; in the second group, slight changes will be made; and in the third group, a withdrawal of occupation forces will be carried out.

This proposal is unacceptable not only because it contradicts the provisions of the DOP and violates the agreement, but also because we cannot trade the security of our people in any region or town for the security of settlements and settlers. Rabin's government is well aware of this, but the occupation mentality which still holds sway over it is driving the government to maintain the manifestations of occupation at the expense of a political solution and peace.

Despite the fact that this proposal, on the face of it, appears to indicate a policy shift, we see it as a continuation of the policy of "procrastination" which Rabin's government has persistently pursued over the past few months. So far, this policy has prevented implementation of the second part of the DOP according to schedule.

There is only one option before Tel Aviv: to adhere to the DOP's provisions and, even more important, to implement them without pursuing a policy of division that distinguishes between the various provisions and their implementation. Such a policy can only endanger the political process. Therefore, the occupation forces' withdrawal from our Palestinian towns, villages, and refugee camps is the clearest way to an honest and full implementation of the DOP.

Leadership Said Delaying 'All Contacts With Jordan'

JN2112145894 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Majdi 'Abd-al-'Al]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab political sources in Cairo have confirmed that the Palestinian leadership has delayed all contacts with Jordan and postponed a visit to Jordan by President 'Arafat, who was scheduled to lead a ranking Palestinian delegation to the country after the Casablanca summit to bolster cooperation in the political and economic fields between Amman and the Palestinian Authority.

The sources said the delay was decided by the Palestinian leadership pending the results of the mediation efforts led by Cairo and a number of Arab countries, members of the Jerusalem Committee, to reach a compromise solution between the two sides on religious jurisdiction over Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Egyptian diplomatic sources said the Arab Jerusalem Committee is likely to hold an emergency meeting within the coming weeks to discuss this subject. At this meeting, Egypt will present its view on this dispute, which is based on two principles:

—Keeping the issue within the Arab fold and not to internationalize it.

—Keeping Israel away from the Jordanian-Palestinian dispute over the city.

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Hamas Member Killed; Hebron Youth Dies by Bomb

TA2212092694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Yari, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist, was murdered in the 'Aqabat Jabr refugee camp in Jericho. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports Yari was on his way to work when a car rammed into him. Unidentified men rushed out of the car and shot him to death. The Palestinian security forces have launched an investigation into the incident.

'Id al-Zurayir, a Hebron youth, was killed while constructing a bomb. Our correspondent has learned from military sources that his body was taken to a Hebron hospital, but family members snatched the body in order to bury it.

Body of Hebron Youth Found; Clashes Erupt

JN2212110494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The body of martyr 'Id 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Sughayyar, a 20-year-old Hebron resident, was found this morning near al-Husayn Bin-'Ali Secondary School in Nimrah area.

The martyr's family reported that the their son left the house last night and did not return. They cited medical sources as saying that their son was hit in the head.

Our correspondent in Hebron says that after the news of the martyrdom of the young man spread, the city became the scene of clashes between young Palestinian men and the Israeli occupation troops. Young men at the city center hurled stones at a settler and set fire to tires as shops closed their doors. The occupation troops were deployed inside the city and chased and attacked the young men. In this regard, it is worth noting that an explosive device was detonated last night as an Israeli military bus was passing by in Nimrah area, where the body of martyr 'Id 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Sughayyar was found this morning.

East Jerusalem Convention Cancelled

TA2212111994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians have canceled the convention planned by the Palestinian Authority [PA] and unofficial Palestinian organizations in East Jerusalem.

The reason for the cancellation is Israel's refusal to permit the PA leaders to attend the meeting. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the representatives of Palestinian nongovernmental organizations wanted to use the meeting to protest the PA's attitude toward their organizations.

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Egypt

Interior Minister Discusses Confronting 'Terrorists'

NC2112184294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi stressed that the security organs have reached a high level of efficiency in confronting the elements of terrorism and extremism and have succeeded in eliminating a number of the terrorist elements and foiling their criminal schemes.

In a speech he delivered to the Popular Conference to Combat Terrrorism, which was attended by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din, Minister al-Alfi said that the initiative is in the hands of the security organs that are moving in all directions in Egypt, chasing the remnants of terrorism and encircling them in order to eliminate them.

He added: With their scientific management, good planning, full coordination between all the security organs, and constant follow up, they have achieved results in confronting the remnants of terrorism, and these results have amazed a number of countries.

He noted that the security organs have a complete database on terrorist groups inside and outside the country and are monitoring their movements, those inside and outside the country who are financing them, and those who are training them.

The interior minister reviewed the achievements of the police organs during 1992 [date as received]. He said that terrorist elements were involved in 245 cases, all of which were brought to light. He noted that the rate of arrests in these cases reached 96 percent, which is one of the highest rates in the world. He added that the security forces succeeded in discovering 148 terrorist cases this years, all of which were foiled with the exception of just five cases that have not been solved and 95 percent of those involved were captured.

Al-Alfi said that the individual cases happening in a number of villages in southern Upper Egypt are not affecting stability and pointed out that 128 international conferences were held in Egypt this year without a single incident happening during them though there were terrorist plans to stage terrorist operations—all of which were foiled.

Minister Hasan al-Alfi stressed that not just Egypt but rather all Arab and Islamic countries are being targeted and that the training, task allocations, financing, and recruitment of new elements are continuing in some governorates of Upper Egypt.

He underlined the need for all political, executive, and popular organs to back the popular movement and to side with the security organs in their battle against terrorism through information and courage.

He called for more intellectual confrontation of the extremist and corrupt ideas in addition to that done by security and for this confrontation to include the villages, towns, and districts of all the republic's governorates. [passage omitted]

Minister on Teachers' Role in Combating 'Terrorism'

NC2112214794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (MENA)—Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamal Baha'-al-Din stressed that educational establishments have an important role in confronting terrorism.

In press statements he made today, he said: This role is based on two things: The first is to exclude the extremists who are trying to deviate from the educational curricula and to spread extremist ideas. The second is to improve the level of the educational process and to replace memorization and dictation with understanding and analysis so as to protect the students from extremism. He added that memorization and dictation lead to the programming of the children's minds and thus facilitate brainwashing.

He noted that terrorism starts with the mind before ending in the use of violence and weapons through the extremists' infiltration of schools and their attempt to distort the concepts and curricula taught to students. He underlined the need to focus on the educational process as the primary remedy for many issues related to terrorism. He praised the role of the security forces against terrorism, noting that this has led to the abatement of acts of violence and terrorism.

With regard to new teachers, he said that tests and examinations are held in the education training colleges, and they are closely supervised while constantly monitoring the extremists' activities in educational establishments.

He stressed that there is full cooperation between the education and interior ministries in all fields. He said: We are all partners shouldering one responsibility, namely that of confronting whatever threatens Egypt's security and stability.

Dr. Baha'-al-Din said that the abatement of extremism in the educational establishments is the result of organized work carried out in the past four years. He noted the educational activities in all universities and said these represent an intellectual and qualitative education practiced through [youth summer] camps in order to form cadres that will have a role to play in the confrontation with extremism and terrorism in universities.

The education minister praised the universities' presidents and deans and said they deserve most of the credit

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for their role in confronting extremism and terrorism through their full cooperation with university students and activation of the student movement that goes hand in hand with the state's social, economic, and health care of students.

Commentary Views Outcome of Mubarak-Weizman Talks

NC2112184594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 21 Dec 94

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Mubarak-Weizman Talks Are a Continuation of Egypt's Efforts To Reach a Comprehensive Peace in the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The important talks between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who concluded his first official visit to Egypt today, reflect Egypt's desire to continue the peace process which, as history records, began when late President Anwar al-Sadat declared that war of October 1973 would be the last one between us and Israel. Events and agreements then followed, starting with the Camp David agreement, and followed by the Oslo agreement, and then the Wadi 'Arabah agreement.

The peace process is still continuing but its pace is not commensurate with the aspirations of the Arab peoples, which in fact marched toward peace. This is evidenced by the extreme flexibility they have shown when they accepted many things that they had rejected in the past. Trade dealings between Egypt, the Gulf countries, and Israel reflect the Arabs' desire to close the file of the past with all its problems and embark on a new history based on mutual respect between the countries of the region and recognition of all the peoples' right to a peaceful life within established and recognized borders. Taking this concept as the basis, Egypt and the Arab nation are keen to underline these principles.

The recent economic summit in Morocco, in which a high level Israeli delegation took part, confirmed in a way that cannot be ignored the possibility of economic cooperation between all the Middle East countries, especially when political questions and issues that are still stalled are resolved; more precisely, when the peace efforts on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks succeed and the remaining clauses of the agreement with the Palestinian side are implemented. Talks on these clauses are being held today between 'Arafat and Peres at the Erez crossing point, which separates the Gaza Strip from Israel. The Palestinians are demanding the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank in a way that allows the holding of elections so that the Palestinian people can freely elect their representatives. This is one of the Palestinian rights that no one can dispute. The issue of redeployment would have negative consequences if no agreement is reached between Peres and 'Arafat.

All the studies about the situation in the Middle East point out that this region can play a political, economic, and cultural role in the world arena if the leaders' efforts succeed in providing stability and peace for their peoples.

Modern history shows that Egypt under Mubarak is playing this role. The talks held by Presidents Mubarak and Weizman centered on giving impetus to the peace efforts on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in particular, because peace—as President Mubarak stresses in all his statements—should encompass the whole region so that all the Middle East peoples can feel it without discrimination between one race and another or between one religion or another.

Egypt's call and adoption of the policy of making the region free from weapons of mass destruction is an undisputed confirmation of its desire for letting the Arab and Israeli peoples of the region enjoy peace, stability, and prosperity.

Sudan

Yemeni Mediation in Eritrea Dispute Confirmed

EA1912195094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the Yemeni Republic, is undertaking mediation efforts between Sudan and Eritrea to contain the dispute which led to Eritrea severing its diplomatic relations with Sudan—a matter which was considered surprising at the time. In the following analysis, we review some aspects of the mediation being undertaken by the Yemeni president.

From the time Eritrea announced the breaking off of its diplomatic relations with Sudan and the withdrawal of its diplomatic mission in Khartoum, the Sudanese side has continued to regard the situation as one which need not remain hostile even though it was the other side which took the initiative in severing the relations without any logical explanation.

And as diplomatic contacts have become impossible because of the closure of conventional channels, it has become necessary to (?resort to) a third party who can at least represent Sudan's good intentions and the soundness of its stand.

This was what the president of the Republic, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said when he welcomed the willingness of the Yemeni president, Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to undertake mediation efforts between Khartoum and Asmara.

Perhaps (?Yemen) is the most appropriate for a number of reasons including the outstanding relations between Yemen and the two sides in the dispute and Yemen's concern over the security of the Red Sea and its littoral states because all this is linked to the security of the Yemeni Republic.

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President Salih is aware of the facts in Sudanese politics. This is a matter well-known to the Yemeni president who has in the past rejected accusations made against Sudan that it intervened militarily in favor of the legitimate government of Sanaa in its dispute with the secessionists in the south in the middle of this year. The Yemeni president is also aware that Sudan is anxious to follow a policy of African neighborliness. It wants to have [words indistinct] with its neighbors because it is motivated by security concerns to hold contacts with its African neighbors under the shadow of organized hostility from the side of the imperialist powers and the states of the new world order.

We find it a source of optimism that efforts announced by the Yemeni president were less than one week old when they resulted in a Yemeni-Eritrean summit in Asmara.

The meeting agreed, in principle, on the convening of a meeting of the joint Sudanese-Eritrean security committee. However, this opens a window for Sudanese efforts to be made to remove the security notion which has gained the upper hand in Eritrean politics and led to the severing of relations.

This security notion was born of intelligence and media reports made available to the leadership in Asmara.

It has therefore become essential to eliminate the notion through contacts for the purpose of placing objective facts based on the soundness of Sudanese policies on the negotiating table. Sudan believes in the principle of good neighborliness and does not pose any threat to the security of its neighbor, Eritrea.

As for the training camps in eastern Sudan, they are confined to Sudanese from the people's defense forces, the people's police and national service. This reality can be viewed and examined through delegations and visits.

By their nature, these camps attract foreign efforts which strive to [word indistinct] between Sudan and its neighbors of relations and links. The areas of contacts and consultation between the two countries should remain [word indistinct].

Government Denies Alleged Insult Against Egypt

EA2112204994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Director of cooperation administration at the Foreign Ministry Ambassador Izz al-Din Hamid has denied false allegations circulated by the Egyptian press on an alleged insult directed by President al-Bashir to Egypt at a press conference he held during the recent Islamic summit in Casablanca, Morocco.

Speaking at the Foreign Ministry's regular press forum, Hamid stressed that President al-Bashir did not insult Egypt at the said press conference but just affirmed Sudan's legitimate and historical right on Hala'ib triangle.

He indicated that the Moroccan king, Hassan II, had endeavored to bring together Al-Bashir and President Mubarak, adding that this overture was appreciated by Sudan despite the fact that the meeting between the two presidents did not take place.

Hamid also reiterated Sudan's eagerness to resolve its differences with Egypt in a cordial atmosphere or through international or regional arbitration.

Al-Bashir Says Election Process To Begin Soon

EA1912165194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, this morning addressed the fourth round of the session of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) at the TNA's headquarters in Omdurman.

His excellency said that the National Salvation Revolution aimed to confirm the national identity of the Sudanese nation, and that the goal of the revolution was to crystallize the meaning of real independence represented by revolutions in education and agriculture which are currently under way in the country.

He announced that the coming weeks will witness the beginning of the general elections. He said that the political system was intended to create a cohesive society and achieve federal rule accepted by the people to achieve full independence.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that the government encouraged economic liberalization but would subsidize the needy and the poor in meeting their living requirements. He added that the economic leap called for a rise in the level of agricultural and industrial production. In this connection, he pointed to the government's efforts in supporting the state's infrastructure.

In his speech, the president of the Republic reviewed the revolution's plan and programs to achieve peace in the country, stressing the march forward toward achieving peace through the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development states. He referred to the continuing efforts to develop the south so that it can keep up with the economic leap being witnessed by the country.

The TNA speaker, Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, announced the prorogation of the session of the TNA to 2 January to allow the members to participate in the Christmas and independence holidays.

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GCC Foreign Ministers Conclude Session

JN2112154194 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 21 Dec (WAKH)—The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states have concluded the working session which they held in Manama this afternoon under Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

WAKH has learned that during this session the ministers approved the draft of the final statement of the GCC summit, which will be submitted to their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC states, who will hold a final session later this evening.

Final Communique Issued

JN2112183094 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Dec 94

["Final communique" of the 15th summit of the GCC Supreme Council in Manama on 19-21 December 1994—live; read by GCC Secretary General Sultan Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi]

(FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In response to a generous invitation by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, the Supreme Council of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] convened its 15th session in Manama from 17 to 19 Rajab 1415 Hergira corresponding to 19-21 December, 1994 under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, with the attendance of their majesties and their highnesses Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]; King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques; Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman; Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar; and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait.

The Council commended the worthy speech by which His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and head of the 15th session of the Supreme Council opened its proceedings and the positive ideas it incorporated to push the march of cooperation among the GCC's states forward.

The Supreme Council listened to a brief report from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, head of the 14th session of the Supreme Council, which featured an evaluation of the Council's worthwhile march and the achievements it has made in the interest of the security and prosperity of the states of the GCC and constructive proposals to advance the march of cooperation so as to realize the noble objectives set by the the heads of state of the GCC member countries.

The report presented a thorough analysis of regional and world developments and the challenges they pose to the GCC states that require the highest degree of coordination and cooperation among the council's member states. The report stressed the need to imbue the joint Gulf action with a new spirit and boost historic and brotherly ties based on common action and destiny. The report also incorporates ideas to enhance collective security and develop and reinforce economic cooperation and redouble efforts to sort out outstanding bilateral problems between the states of the Council before the Supreme Council reconvenes in its 16th session.

The Council also reviewed the messages sent by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, to his brothers their majesties and highnesses. The Council familiarized itself with positive vision and ideas to improve the Council's performance and push its march so as to meet the aspirations and hopes of its peoples.

The Supreme Council acquainted itself with the reports and recommendations submitted by the ministerial committees and ministerial council and voiced its satisfaction with the blessed joint action's achievements in all areas of cooperation. The Council reiterates its determination to take the blessed march toward wider horizons and firm up the foundations of security, stability, and prosperity to meet the aspirations and ambitions of the Council's peoples and enhance its positive role in coping with regional and international developments.

In this regard, the Council reviewed the political, security, and economic conditions in the Gulf region, in light of the current developments. It considered ways to consolidate the march of the GCC and remove all obstacles impeding it, inspired by the spirit and principles of the GCC basic system's objectives, which stated that the GCC was founded out of a conviction in a common destiny and shared goals.

Fulfillment of UN Security Council Resolutions on Iraq's Aggression

The Supreme Council studied the regional developments and the extent to which Iraq has complied with the Security Council's resolutions on Iraq's aggression on the State of Kuwait. In this regard, the Council considered the Republic of Iraq's recognition of the State of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity and international boundaries with the Republic of Iraq as stipulated by Resolutions 687 and 833 and viewed it as an important step toward Iraq's implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions. In this regard, the Council stresses that Iraq's recognition came as a resutl of the strong position of the GCC states and the international community's insistence, represented by the Security Council, that Iraq fulfill all the resolutions of international legitimacy. Iraq's recognition confirms the facts about Kuwait's political and historic role corroborated by official documents and bilateral and international agreements.

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While the Council expresses its appreciation of the Security Council member states for their firm position calling for Iraq's implementation of all resolutions of the international legitimacy, it urges them to continue these principled and firm positions and their serious efforts to force Iraq to make similar steps toward serious implementation of all Security Council resolutions, especially those related to the release of all Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees, and toward implementation of Security Council Resolution 949 in letter and spirit by refraining from any provocative or aggressive action that threatens the State of Kuwait and the countries of the region.

The Supreme Council emphasizes that Iraq's full implementation of all Security Council resolutions related to its aggression represents a basic element to prove its peaceful intentions toward the State of Kuwait and the neighboring countries and a starting point for enhancing security and stability in the region. It also emphasizes that the security of the Council states is an indivisible whole.

The Supreme Council also reiterates its eagerness to maintain Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and reiterates its sympathy with the fraternal Iraqi people in their ordeal, for which the Iraqi Government is fully responsible due to its refusal to implement Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 which deal with Iraq's requirements of food and medicine.

Relations With the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Subject of Islands

The Supreme Council reviewed the developments of relations between the GCC states and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and emphasizes the position of the Council states which calls for preserving the security and stability of the region and establishing normal relations with neighbors based on mutual respect, noninterference in the internal affairs, refrain from use of force or threat to use it, and solving differences through peaceful means.

Based on these principles, the Council states have repeatedly called on Iran to respond to the UAE's call for solving the subject of the Iranian occupation of the three islands: Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa, which belong to the UAE, through peaceful means and serious bilateral negotiations.

While the Supreme Council appreciates the efforts made by the UAE to solve this dispute bilaterally, and because Iran did not show serious desire to discuss ending its occupation of the three islands: Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa, the Council urges Iran to accept referring this dispute to the International Court of Justice in its capacity as the international side specialized in solving disputes between states.

The Middle East Peace Process

The Supreme Council discussed developments of the Middle East peace process, and noted the substantial progress realized during the past period, represented by the signing by the Palestinian and Israeli sides of the self-rule agreement, and the steps they made toward early transfer of powers to the civilian Palestinian Authority and expansion of the powers of the Palestinian self-rule. It also noted the signing of a peace treaty by Jordan and Israel.

While the Council welcomes the substantial steps made in the Middle East peace process and expresses its continued support for it, it urges the cosponsors of the peace conference to intensify the efforts to make progress on the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese-Israeli tracks and to ask Israel to fully withdraw from the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon and to reach a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestine question in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy, based on the land-for- peace principle and Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

The Supreme Council also calls on the Security Council and the cosponsors of the peace process to prevent Israel from making any change in the status of Jerusalem which should maintain the 1967 borders; to comply with all the resolutions of international legitimacy regarding holy Jerusalem; and not to make any change in its demographic and geographical characteristics in a way that would affect the 1967 status.

The Situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina

The Supreme Council studied with extreme concern and worry the security deterioration and the continued severe human suffering in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a result of the Serbs' continued acts of aggression, genocide, and annihilation carried out against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The latest of these acts was the criminal aggression against peaceful Bihac and against defenseless people there in particular. This is considered a violation of the UN Charter. The Serbs' rejection of the peace plan is a blatant challenge to the international community. In this context, the Supreme Council voices its full support for the principles and reconciliatory stand adopted by the Bosnian Government out of its desire to achieve peace.

While condemning the Serbian aggression, the Supreme Council expresses its deep regret that the Security Council has not taken decisive measures to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. The Council urges the Security Council to take effective measures to ensure Serbian compliance with its related resolutions, as well as to reinforce the UN international protection and to expand the mission of its forces. The Council also urges the Security Council to help the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina exercise its inalienable legitimate right to self-defense, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

In this context, the Supreme Council reiterates its support for the resolution of the Islamic summit in its

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seventh session held in Casablanca regarding the readiness of the Islamic countries to contribute to the international efforts, which are aimed at providing means of self-defense to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Supreme Council reiterates the declaration issued by Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Ministerial meeting of the liaison team held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 29 September 1994 and the declaration of the expanded meeting of the ICO liaison team held on the level of the foreign ministers in Geneva on 6 December 1994. The Council calls for the expeditious implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 10/49 issued on 2 November 1994.

The Supreme Council underscores the resolutions and declaration on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina issued by the ICO seventh summit which convened recently in Casablanca.

The Phenomenon of Extremism and Violence

The Supreme Council has observed with great concern the phenomenon of extremism and immoderation, which produces acts of violence and terrorism. It asserts its full rejection and condemnation of these practices with all their forms, motives, and bases, and calls for confronting this destructive phenomenon because it is far away from the spirit of true Islam and is contrary to its tolerant shari'a. The Council also calls on Muslim scholars to highlight the values and principles of true Islam, which are based on forbearance and renouncing violence, as well as to continue their efforts to present the sound and appropriate solutions to the problems of the age, in accordance with the principles of true Islam.

In this context, the Council affirms the need for reinforcing the efforts aimed at highlighting the true and honorable picture of Islam and the essence of its eternal shari'a which is good for all times and everywhere.

The Cooperation and Coordination Fields

With regard to military affairs, the Supreme Council studied the ideas included in the report of the custodian of the two holy mosques, as well as the recommendations of the defense ministers' 13th meeting. In view of the importance of effective defense cooperation among the GCC states, and out of the Supreme Council's wish to upgrade the collective defense capability of the GCC states, increase their ability to confront crises, and promote their combat efficiency, the Supreme Council has decided to take steps to build their [GCC states'] own defensive strength under a unified strategy which will place all available resources at the service of Gulf security.

The Supreme Council also decided to develop the Peninsula Shield Force, so it can carry out effective and rapid movement. It entrusted the Higher Committee, set up in the 14th session, to follow up implementation of this decision.

With regard to the security field, the Supreme Council reviewed security cooperation among the GCC states. It expressed satisfaction with the level of cooperation and coordination among the various security organs and sectors in the member states, as well as with the steps and achievements realized by the interior ministers in their 13th meeting.

These steps and achievements reflect and entrench this concept among the GCC states. They include the security agreement which serves as a framework for and organizes the existing security cooperation among the member states. This step will reflect positively on other fields of joint action, and will be followed by other steps which will achieve the aspirations of the GCC states' citizens in terms of facilitating their movement among the member states, which will consolidate their contacts and interaction and facilitate their pursuit of economic, social, and cultural activities.

In the economic field, the Supreme Council reviewed the ideas included in the report presented by the custodian of the two holy mosques to promote and activate economic cooperation among the GCC states in light of the results of the ministerial meetings held this year. The Supreme Council also decided to entrust the specialized ministerial committees with the following:

—Studying the available resources to absorb the continued increase in the number of job seekers from the GCC states' citizens in all production and services sectors.

—Working to increase the contribution of the national industry to the national economy.

—Encouraging the purchase of the national industries in each state in terms of raw material, intermediate goods, and the services produced by that state or other GCC states.

—Encouraging the growing industries' use of advanced technology and the best quality control standards and helping investors obtain the licenses required in the countries exporting technology.

—Using scientific research centers to conduct the necessary research in order to help the private sector utilize imported technology, so they will conform to the local and foreign needs.

—Providing opportunities to trade circles in the GCC to acquaint themselves with feasibility studies in order to encourage these circles to establish what they deem appropriate.

The Supreme Council also ordered the completion of the necessary measures to unify the bylaws of companies in the GCC states to facilitate the establishment of joint investments and promote and upgrade the performance of the Gulf banks on fine banking bases. The Supreme Council ordered the reviewing of measures taken by the member states to implement the GCC decisions in the

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economic fields in order to unify these measures and make them clear to the GCC states' citizens who seek to benefit from the privileges provided by these decisions with the aim of facilitating the movement of goods, services, and capital and establishing investment projects.

The Supreme Council has learned that the authorized Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee has agreed to conduct economic activities in health areas. It also notes with satisfaction the steady growth of trade exchange among the member states, as well as the increase in the number of citizens benefiting from the economic resolutions issued by the Supreme Council during previous sessions on conducting economic and professional activities, the ownership of real estate, and exchanging shares in share-holding companies. This will further the interaction of interests and cooperation.

The Supreme Council also reviewed the results of the efforts of the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee to unify customs tariffs, and the Supreme Council instructed the ministers of finance and economy to quickly agree on and apply a unified customs tariff in order to speed up integration among the GCC member states. It also endorsed amendments to unified regulations for ownership and the circulation of shares in order to allow the GCC states' citizens to own and circulate shares in share-holding companies, which are working in the various economic areas except banking and insurance areas. It also endorsed the amended regulations on conducting wholesale trade.

The Supreme Council expressed its satisfaction with the signing of the Uruguay agreements, as well as their endorsement by the main trade partners. It also welcomes the establishment of the World Trade Organization and expects it to play its role to free world trade in order to promote it and speed up economic development.

The Supreme Council also reviewed economic relations between the GCC states and their main trade partners, as well as economic cooperation with them. The Council expresses satisfaction with the progress made in various areas of economic cooperation with the EU, and expects further cooperation, including nonimposition of new taxes on energy, and progress in negotiations aimed at reaching free trade agreements between the two regions and facilitating the entry of the GCC states' products into the EU to increase our exports to it and correct the trade balance between the two sides.

The Supreme Council also expresses its satisfaction with the results of economic cooperation with the United States reached during the recent ministerial meeting, stressing the importance of building strong bases of cooperation between the two sides. The Council listened to a report from the Ministerial Council on economic relations with Japan and welcomed the results of the first conference of businessmen in Tokyo. The Council urged the main trade partners to increase investments in the GCC states.

The Supreme Council expresses its great appreciation for and gratitude to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, and the Bahraini Government and people for their warm reception and hospitality and true brotherly feeling toward the leaders of the GCC states. It also praises the excellent arrangements made and stresses the importance of the great role played by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain and chairman of the current session of the Supreme Council, as well as his excellency's efficient management of the meetings. This has greatly contributed to reaching the important and good results of this session.

The Supreme Council looks forward to the 16th session it will hold in the Sultanate of Oman in December, 1995, at the generous invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

[Dated] Issued in Manama on 19 Rajab, 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 21 December, 1994

Bahrain

Anti-Government Demonstrations Said To Continue

'Exaggerated' Reports Criticized

MM2112143194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Manama, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Government sources in Manama accused yesterday "foreign circles of spreading untrue reports about what is happening in Bahrain at present."

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that these circles "are spreading these reports in pursuit of objectives that have nothing to do with Bahrain's interests."

The government sources categorically denied that anyone has been killed "in confrontations between security forces and demonstrators," as claimed by opposition circles in statements carried by news agencies.

The sources said that "all these reports are exaggerated, and some are fabricated and absolutely baseless." [passage omitted]

Information Minister: Situation 'Calm'

LD2112131194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports by news agencies, clashes and demonstrations still continue in Bahrain.

According to Western news sources, anti-government demonstrations are mainly centered in Manama, the capital of Bahrain. Bahrain's security officials say,

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during the last few days of unrest and clashes in that country, hundreds of people have been arrested.

At the same time, Bahrain's minister of information has described the situation in that country as calm and said that the situation in Bahrain had returned to normal after two weeks of unrest and demonstrations.

Students, Villagers Protest

NC2212073894 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Protests continued in Bahrain yesterday and it was reported that hundreds of students demonstrated at Bahrain University and shouted anti-government slogans. The sound of gunfire was heard in Manama.

A university professor said that hundreds of the university's religious disciplines college had gathered on the campus to protest the killing of a student by the police during earlier demonstrations. He added that the university's president decided to suspend classes but the students continued their demonstration and were joined by veiled female students.

In Manama, where the summit meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council's leaders ended yesterday, the sound of sporadic gunfire could be heard, fired by police personnel involved in constant confrontations with the residents of the city's various residential quarters.

An Arab diplomat in Bahrain reported that the residents of the villages of (al-Khaliq, Baz) and Sanabis set up roadblocks on the approaches to their villages to prevent security forces from entering them. One citizen said that clashes are continuing in various parts of the country and that the citizens are using rocks in confronting police armed with rifles and tear gas grenades. He added that tension is continuing in various areas.

Bahrain has been the scene of unprecedented disturbances for the past two weeks punctuated by calls for greater democracy and for the release of political prisoners and protests against the policy of deliberate neglect that the royal [as heard] regime adopts vis-a-vis the country's poor areas.

Yemen

Salih Notes Sudan, Eritrea Contacts

JN1812201994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1722 GMT 18 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in Aden, by BBC correspondent Ahmad Mustafa; date not given; from the "News Follow-ups" program—broadcast by the BBC's Arabic Service on 18 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Yemeni president has given the BBC's Arabic Section a brief interview from Aden. The interview was conducted by colleague Ahmad Mustafa, who first asked whether settling the Yemeni-Saudi border dispute means a final solution or an agreement on the way to resolving this dispute. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said:

[Salih] There have been continuous contacts between us and the brothers in the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia] regarding what happened recently in terms of the border problem in the north-western area between Yemen and the Kingdom. Through these contacts, this accidental problem has been contained.

Moreover, a committee was formed from the border corps in both countries to investigate this issue and the incidents (?that preceded it). The committee met and contained the issue. They will perhaps meet today for the second time to finalize the investigations on what happened in the past weeks. This is a fact- finding committee and is only designed to contain what happened.

[Mustafa] Your Excellency the President: There have been some outstanding problems since the crisis which erupted in Yemen at the beginning of this year. Does this require a Yemeni-Saudi summit?

(Salih] There are continous contacts between us and the brothers in the Kingdom. The outstanding border dispute between our countries will be resolved through fraternal and responsible methods in order to end the border problem. A mechanism will be employed to resolve it through continuous contacts and understanding, whether by holding a summit or through envoys. There is a joint intention or desire to resolve the border problem between Yemen and the Kingdom.

[Mustafa] Your Excellency the President: During your recent visit to Eritrea, you said the visit was aimed at improving bilateral relations. However, did your visit to Eritrea have anything to do with the recent Eritrean-Sudanese dispute? Are you playing any mediation role between the two countries?

[Salih] In fact, the visit aimed to discuss bilateral relations and also to try to contain the cool relations between the brothers in Sudan and Eritrea. We sensed a joint desire by both parties, which is in the interest of both countries. We are giving advice and exerting every effort.

As neighbors, we must be interested in stability in the Horn of Africa. We sensed a joint desire. God willing, the brothers in Sudan and Eritrea will succeed in resolving their bilateral problems.

[Mustafa] The last question, Your Excellency the President: The Gulf summit will tomorrow discuss the border issues between the Gulf states. Can it be said that what happened between Yemen and Saudi Arabia can serve as an example to follow between the Gulf states [words indistinct]?

[Salih] We consider Yemen's conduct with Oman as the best method to resolve border disputes. We resolved the

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border problem between us and the Sultanate of Oman in a cordial and satisfactory way. We hope that [words indistinct] in the Peninsula, Gulf, and other areas will follow the same method employed by us and the Sultanate of Oman.

[Mustafa] This is an opportunity for us to talk to you. May we ask you about the latest developments in the reconstruction drive after the crisis which Yemen experienced?

[Salih] The [Yemeni] Government is making efforts to reconstruct what was damaged by the war or the sedition that occurred in our country. The Government worked out a program to reconstruct what was damaged in the war. We, in the state's presidency, are following up on this program to reconstruct what was damaged by the war in the country.

[Mustafa] What is new about the reconciliation between the authorities and the [Yemeni] Socialist Party?

[Salih] There is nothing new. After the sedition was eliminated, a general amnesty was declared. Even before this decision was made, the situation came under control [words indistinct] with the return of the misled ones. All leaders, military men, and civilians returned from abroad to the homeland.

They were granted all their political rights, and they can exercise all their legitimate political rights under the Constitution and law. They have also regained all their privileges, rights, salaries, and all that concerns their rights in the homeland. In other words, there is nothing new. With regard to the secessionist elements and leaders who ignited the war and declared sedition in Yemen, they will be brought to trial. As for the remainder of the misled ones, whether politicians or other ordinary people, they have returned to the homeland. Today, more than 80 people will arrive aboard an aircraft from the United Arab Emirates.

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Trade Ministry To Start Ration Card Distribution

JN2212114094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—The Trade Ministry will as of next Saturday [24 December], and until the end of January 1995, start distributing the new ration cards for the year 1995 to Iraqi and Arab citizens in Baghdad and the governorates.

A responsible source at the ministry told INA that the ministry has made all arrangements to organize the distribution of the new cards on the basis of the available information about every family within the geographic boundaries covered by the supply centers that are spread all over the country.

In the past three months, Iraq decided to cut down to half the citizen's share of the items covered by the ration card because of the continued embargo, which has been imposed by the United States and its allies against the Iraqi people for more than four years now, and because of Iraq's inability to import food commodities as a result of the shortage of hard currencies resulting from the halt of oil exports.

Radio Claims Movements of Army Units, MKO

JN1812184694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On 14 December, the Iraqi regime transferred several military units in the Tazah, Daquq, and Zunbur areas to the (Binbisa) area, near Tuz. The same day, the regime transferred more than 75 Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] personnel from the al-'Uzaym military camp to the same area.

On 15 December, the regime withdrew the military positions [rabaya 'askaraiyah] from (Jul 'Izzat Dini) near the city of Kifri to the (al-Mahattah) camps near the [name indistinct].

An informed source said that on 11 December, the regime changed or transferred officials in the security and intelligence departments in the cities of Tuz, Daquq, Khanaqin, Jalula', al-Sa'diyah, and (Sharbal) Qarah Tabbah. The source said that these measures follow Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i's joining the ranks of the Iraqi opposition.

AL-THAWRAH Criticizes GCC Summit Statement

JN2212102894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has strongly criticized the statement issued by the 15th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], which concluded in Manama yesterday, Wednesday.

In an article published today under the headline "There Are Only Steps Between Shortsightedness and Political Blindness," the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Those who wrote this statement and ratified it are not concerned about what is going on, nor do they read or understand things. The only thing they do is execute the Americans' orders without question.

The paper refers to the call the statement makes to Iraq "to prove its peaceful intentions toward Kuwait and other GCC states," as if Iraq has not done anything or taken any position in that regard.

The paper recalls President Saddam Husayn's speech on the 26th anniversary of the 17 July Revolution in which he said that "the doors of Iraq are still open for positive interaction should there be such intentions and actions. Such a position can still have its impact on the Iraqis so that this will brush aside some of the obstacles along the path of the nation." The paper also highlights his excellency's statement that "we reiterate that we offer peace and security to whoever needs it, including rulers who harmed us. This might benefit our nation. At any rate, we have offered what is satisfactory to God and freed ourselves from blame."

The paper also refers to the official and media reaction in Kuwait to President Saddam Husayn's call and to the call made by the People's Assembly speaker to the Kuwaiti parliament before Iraq recognized Kuwait and its borders according to Resolution 833. The paper says: Has the Kuwaiti information minister—the one who invented the incubators story—not repeated the position of the U.S. Administration when he said that Iraq's recognition is not enough and that Kuwait will not normalize relations with Iraq even if it implements all the UN Security Council resolutions?

The paper stresses that the Kuwaiti officials' statements and reaction to the recognition of Kuwait and the borders do not suggest a desire or an intent to normalize ties with Iraq.

The paper adds: Have the conferees at the GCC summit not heard Iraq's speech at the recent Islamic summit in Morocco, which was very well received by all delegations? Did they not hear Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid? He said: "The speech by the head of the Iraqi delegation is great, clear, and flexible and opens a new chapter of relations, good neighborliness, and Arab reconciliation. The Iraqi vision provides an excellent and wise starting point for the process of Arab reconciliation. I did not expect Iraq to be that flexible."

The paper also notes that certain news agencies commented on the language of the GCC statement by saying that the statement's use of the expression "Republic of Iraq" was in response to efforts made in that direction by Qatar, knowing that the expression "the Iraqi regime" has been used in the GCC's statements since August 1990.

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The paper says: What the statement says to the effect that "the Republic of Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and the borders is an important step in the direction toward Iraq's implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions" is really funny. Does this suggest that the GCC acknowledges that the "Iraqi regime" that recognized Kuwait and the borders two months ago did not represent Iraq before the GCC's 15th summit?

The paper asks: How did you accept the recognition of Kuwait and borders demarcation from a regime that does not represent Iraq?

The paper adds: The GCC summit statement repeated the words of U.S. envoy Albright. It further demanded that the five permanent members of the Security Council maintain their resolute positions toward Iraq to force it to implement all UN Security Council resolutions particularly as regards the release of prisoners and missing persons.

The paper ask: Does the parrot-like repetition of the U.S. position display good intentions to normalize ties with Iraq? Does the GCC not know that three permanent members of the Security Council have repeatedly acknowledged Iraq's cooperation with the UN Special Commission charged with implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions? Does it not know that France, which participated in the aggression against Iraq, is seeking to restrain the U.S. position and to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq?

The paper says the statement's claim that the GCC is fully concerned about Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity is a false claim. The papers adds: The GCC leaders know that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are still conspiring against Iraq's unity by supporting the secessionist elements in northern Iraq. Their shortsightedness has even reached the point of supporting pro-Iranian elements, which not long ago were conspiring against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The paper stresses that those who are concerned about Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity should immediately stop such evil intentions and renounce such methods, which do not display political maturity or vision.

The paper explains: Is it the Iraqi Government that is imposing a blockade on the Iraqis, or the U.S. Government, which publicly states that it will not lift the embargo imposed on Iraq even if it implements all the UN Security Council resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The GCC statement clearly shows which party is really interested in establishing tranquility and peace in the region and which parties are blindly implementing the U.S. scheme and violating all principles, ethics, and calls to arrive at Arab reconciliation and balanced, logical results.

Paper: U.S. Could 'Abandon' Gulf Arab Monarchies

NC2112175994 Paris AFP in English 1647 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Dec 21 (AFP)—An official Iraqi newspaper warned Wednesday [21 December] that the United States could abandon the Gulf Arab monarchies if its oil interests came under threat from unrest in the region.

AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the ruling Ba'th party, said "the crises shaking certain regimes (in the Gulf) are insoluble."

Washington could "intervene to prevent the situation from spiralling and preserve its oil interests," the paper said.

The United States would not "hesitate to abandon Saudi leaders if its interests are threatened by the risks of a popular, general revolt or armed disorder," it added.

AL-THAWRAH compared the Saudi government to that of the shah of Iran before he was toppled by the Islamic revolution in 1979.

The comments came as the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) wound up a summit in Bahrain, which has been rocked by nine days of Shiite Moslem protests which have left as many as nine people dead.

AL-THAWRAH said the GCC monarchies had "squandered their oil wealth" to finance the US-led military campaign which evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War.

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Peres on Talk With 'Arafat, PA Elections

TA2112170094 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Dec 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the Jerusalem studio by Dan Margalit in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Margalit] Did you reach an agreement or understanding with Yasir 'Arafat regarding those areas from which the IDF will withdraw first in anticipation of the elections in the autonomy?

[Peres] No. We did not go into this issue at all.

[Margalit] Did you reach an understanding that it will be Janin or Bethlehem or both?

[Peres] Nothing of the sort. We discussed principles, not locations, today. We talked about the method of handling the negotiations, but we did not deal with maps.

[Margalit] Did the Palestinians agree that the IDF pullout, withdrawal, or redeployment in the territories will not be carried out all at once and will not be completed before the elections?

[Peres] Look, I would rather not go into details. It only makes the negotiations more difficult. Why should I make guesses?

[Margalit] This is no detail; this is a principle. I did not ask you about any specific site....

[Peres, interrupting] We agreed on several principles, but I would not like to elaborate on them in public. I will only say that we agreed to deal with things while safeguarding security.

[Margalit] When do you believe the elections to the Palestinian autonomy council will be held?

[Peres] I will not give dates, but I believe it is a matter of months.

[Margalit] Months?

[Peres] Yes.

[Margalit] Would you say the first half of 1995?

[Peres] I could, but I will not. What is the point of committing myself to certain dates?

[Margalit] Mr. Peres, I believe you heard the remarks President 'Ezer Weizman made upon his return from Egypt today. Would it be correct to say that in terms of getting Egypt's President Mubarak to Israel, Weizman's trip to Cairo failed?

[Peres] I would not say that this was the main goal of President Weizman's trip, and I suggest that we not view it as one. We are aware of President Mubarak's difficulties and hesitations regarding a visit to Israel. Let us not turn this into a major issue. In general, our relations with Egypt are improving. For the first time, some 20,000 Egyptian tourists are expected to arrive here this year. Very important economic delegations have been here, and deals are being signed. We agreed to build large-scale refineries in Egypt. Our relations must be developed gradually, with care and patience.

[Margalit] But there is another aspect to Egypt's conduct: It is not only pressuring us on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and threatening not to sign if we do not sign, but it is also interfering with our economic ties with Turkey by telling the Turkish prime minister not to rush ahead after her visit to Israel and by torpedoing our diplomatic negotiations with the Muslim Comoros Islands.

[Peres] Well, Egypt vehemently denies this. At a dinner I had with him, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa categorically denied this, saying no Egyptian was involved. As for the NPT, we are not asking them to sign anything. They may sign or not sign anything they want. Our stand is clear. [passage omitted]

Peres Sees Membership in Arab League as Next Goal

TA2112125094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Dec 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben, Ori Nir, Gay Bekhor, and Gid'on Alon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that "there is no doubt that Israel's next goal should be to join the Arab League." Addressing the Islamic College in I'billin in the western Galilee, Peres said that perhaps after Israel joins, the Arab League will change its name to the Middle Eastern League.

Peres said a few days ago that Israel should establish ties with most members of the Arab League in the coming year. Israel currently has ties with five Arab League members—Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and the Palestinians—and maintains contacts with seven other Arab states. The foreign minister raised his idea in his meeting with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in their meeting at the UN General Assembly two and a half months ago. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Demand Peres Statement on Iraq

TA2112150094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Dec 94 p A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States demanded that Israel issue an official communique or a statement by a senior political source reaffirming its support for continuing the international sanctions on Iraq and refuting allegations and reports that Israel has been holding contacts with Iraq.

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As a reason for their demand, the Americans cited the fear that Iraq might take advantage of the latest reports about its contacts with Israel to weaken the U.S. position in favor of continuing the sanctions. U.S. officials made it clear to their Israeli counterparts that they cannot settle for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's denials of similar reports a few months ago.

In response to the U.S. entreaty, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee two days ago, denied the allegations about contacts between Israeli and Iraqi officials and added that Israel adheres to its position that there were not and will not be any contacts whatsoever on easing the sanctions on Iraq as long as the latter does not abide by all the UN resolutions.

Peres found an opportunity to make these remarks in reply to a question by Labor Knesset Member Ra'anan Kohen. [passage omitted]

This month, the United States approached many countries, including Israel, to consolidate support for continuing the sanctions on Iraq. Prime Minister Rabin told journalists in Tokyo last week that Israel has not been waging any diplomatic campaign against Iraq, as it does with regard to Iran, because "we cannot run the world." According to Rabin, Israel leaves it to the United States to deal with Iraq.

Gen. Yatom To Conduct Military Talks With Syria

TA2112145594 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 94 p 11

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Dani Yatom, the prime minister's military secretary, is the officer who will conduct the military talks with Syria in Washington at this stage. This was reported last night by political sources in Jerusalem. The sources noted that outgoing Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq may take part in the talks at a later stage.

At the same time, it has been learned that the Israeli and Syrian officers taking part in the talks will not hold direct meetings but will hold alternate meetings with the other side's ambassador. Political sources in Jerusalem said that Israel accepted this arrangement, which a Jerusalem source termed "odd," for lack of a better alternative. Therefore, there will be no detailed negotiations between officers of both armies, and only general discussions will be held on the principles of security on the Golan Heights.

The Syrian officer will meet with a team made up of Ambassadors Itamar Rabinovich and Walid al-Mu'allim and U.S. mediator Dennis Ross. The Israeli officer will hold separate meetings with the same team. Israel hopes that this format will eventually be replaced by direct meetings between the officers.

In the meantime, Jerusalem sees Syria's refusal to allow direct meetings as an indication that Damascus has not yet reached a decision to expedite the talks.

Yatom Leaves for U.S. for Syria Talks

TA2212060594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister's military adviser, Major General Dani Yatom, has gone to the U.S., apparently to take part in the talks between Israel and Syria. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that Yatom will be taking part in the talks between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington. Senior officers from both sides have joined the talks to discuss security matters.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter adds it's not clear whether Yatom will meet directly with the senior Syrian officer.

Top Echelons Concerned Over Jordan's Rising Isolation

TA2112152094 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 94 p 11

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's top political echelons are concerned by Jordan's gradually increasing isolation from the Arab world after signing the peace agreement. Israel fears a destabilization of the situation in the Hashemite Kingdom.

In certain circles, this assessment of the situation is bolstering the opposition to appointing former Mosad official Efrayim Halevi as ambassador to Jordan. According to these circles, such an appointment would increase Arab criticism of the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will try to decide on the appointment today, after failing to reach an agreement in discussions they held yesterday. Rabin adheres to his support for Halevi, while Peres is insisting that the ambassador be chosen from among the Foreign Ministry staffers.

Shahal on Palestinian Security in Jerusalem

TA2112152994 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 94 p 10

[Report by Yosi Levi and Hanan Schlein]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Palestinian security service is trying to operate in Jerusalem secretly, without drawing attention," Police Minister Moshe Shahal claimed yesterday. "Among other things, Palestinian security personnel are attempting to conduct investigations in Jerusalem and summon residents for interrogation at their Jericho headquarters."

Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service in Jericho, attempted to enter Jerusalem but was stopped

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by a Border Police unit at a roadblock last Saturday night. According to Shahal, he issued the order banning al-Rujub from Jerusalem. "My message to al-Rujub is unequivocal: Jerusalem is sovereign Israeli territory, and he has no business there in his capacity as head of the Palestinian security services."

Israel allows Palestinian officials to carry guns while on its territory. Permits to that effect were issued within the framework of understandings reached with the PLO regarding the passage of senior Palestinian Authority [PA] members through Israeli territory.

PA official Jamil al-Tarifi told MA'ARIV yesterday that some 30 senior PA officials received this permit, and they and their bodyguards may travel through Israel armed.

Arab Shot Dead; Kakh Claims Responsibility

TA2112155994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An Arab resident of Samaria was shot dead this afternoon near a village north of Tulkarm. An anonymous young man shot him and fled the scene. The police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have launched an investigation. One of the possibilities being examined is that the man was murdered because he was suspected of having collaborated with Israel. A short time ago, Kakh activists left a message on our correspondent's answering service, claiming responsibility for the murder. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Yokhpaz] Palestinian sources in Tulkarm said this evening that Ya'id Ahmad Khadr al-Sa'id was shot dead because he was suspected of having collaborated with Israel. Al-Sa'id was attending customers in the gas station he managed in the village of Baqah al-Sharqiyah when an anonymous young man, apparently wearing a mask, approached him and fired a few shots, fatally wounding him. Al-Sa'id, 41, was promptly taken to a hospital in Tulkarm, where he was pronounced dead.

IDF and police troops immediately launched an investigation into the incident. Residents of Tulkarm reported that the security forces erected numerous roadblocks in the area in an attempt to capture the anonymous shooter.

About 1,000 Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel have been killed by other Palestinians since the beginning of the intifadah, and there has been no significant drop in murders of this type since the signing of the Oslo agreement. In any event, no sooner had the news of the murder spread in Samaria than an anonymous man left a message on the answering service of several journalists who cover the territories, claiming that Kakh activists, as it were, are responsible for the murder.

Arabs Preventing Work at Settlement Near Bethlehem

TA2212093594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A confrontation is taking place between dozens of Arabs and workers who came to lay the foundations for a new neighborhood near the settlement of Efrat in the 'Etzyon Bloc.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that this week tractors began preparations for a new neighborhood consisting of 500 housing units north of Efrat, not far from Bethlehem.

The Arabs are trying to prevent the tractors from working. Army forces were alerted and sent to the site.

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Reportage on Court Sentencing of Jordanian 'Afghans'

Names of Criminals, Sentences Released

JN2112125394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Security Court met this morning under military Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin, assisted by military Judge Major Tayil al-Raqqad and military Judge Major Fawwaz al-Buqur. The court passed sentence in the case of the [Jordanian] Afghans. It sentenced 11 criminals to death by hanging and handed out varying prison terms with hard labor against seven other criminals, after finding them guilty of belonging to an illegal society, participating in a conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts, and possessing explosives for illegal purposes.

The court acquitted the following seven defendants of these charges:

Muhammad Ahmad al-Shaykh al-Qahmawi
'Umar Jibril al-Shawahin
'Isam 'Awad al-Dayah
Ra'd Khalil al-Kasabirah
Walid Muhammad Salih 'Ashsha
Muhammad Salih Musa Ziyadah
'Abd-al-Majid 'Abd-al-Ilah Abu Dayyah
The following criminals were sentenced to death by hanging:
'Abdallah Kamil 'Abdallah al-Hashayikah
Isma'il Sa'id Khalil al-'Amayirah
Zakariya Muhammad Dawud Qasim
Muhammad Ahmad al-Harithi, of Omani nationality and fugitive
Muhammad 'Ali 'Isa Abu-'Abbad
Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Fattah al-'Adharibah
Samir Ahmad Muhammad Daylakh
Yasin Hasan Muhammad Zahrah
Sulayman Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al Baysah
Yahya 'Uwaydat Muhammad al-Sawarikah, a fugitive
Muhammad Jamal Khalifah, of Saudi nationality and fugitive

The following criminals were sentenced to various prison terms with hard labor:
Jihad Ahmad Khalid al-Tanjirah, life with hard labor
Khalil Tawfiq Muhammad 'Alqam, life with hard labor
Muhammad Sa'id Muqbil Dar-'Awdah, life with hard labor
'Id Salih Husayn al-Jahalin, 20 years with hard labor
Hasan Hamdan Hasan 'Abd-al-Qadir, a juvenile, detention for 12 years
Khalid 'Ali Abu-Dayyah, seven and a half years with hard labor
Fa'iq Salih al-Shawish, seven and a half years with hard labor

Further on Sentences

JN2212111694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22, 23 Dec 94 p 1

[Article "compiled from dispatches filed by Agence France Presse, the Associated Press, Reuters and the Jordan News Agency, Petra"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The State Security Court sentenced to death 11 Muslim fundamentalists on Wednesday [21 December] for terrorist acts including bomb attacks on cinemas which wounded nine people, amid angry exchanges in the courtroom.

Three of those sentenced to hang were tried in absentia and remain at large. They include Muhammad Khalifah, a son-in-law of Saudi Arabian businessman Usamah Bin-Ladin, an alleged financier of Muslim hardline groups across the region.

"We have not been unjust to them," Colonel Hafiz Amin, head of the three-man military tribunal, told reporters after sentencing. "They have done injustice to themselves."

Three others had death sentences commuted to life terms and one had a death sentence reduced to 20 years because of no past criminal record. Three received sentences from 7 ½ to 20 years, while seven men walked from the court smiling after they were acquitted.

The sentence will automatically be appealed to a higher court. King Husayn has commuted all previous death sentences for political crimes.

The court accused the men of plotting to destabilise the country and of illegal possession of home-made bombs and dynamite.

The 25 men, mostly Jordanians of Palestinian origin who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union, were seized in a crackdown on Muslim radicals in January. Their trial began in August.

"I swear by God you are atheists...I have won," 31-year-old 'Abdallah al-Hashayikah shouted after hearing his death sentence.

Most of the bearded men wore scull-caps and read from the Holy Koran as the judge summarised the 164-page court decision.

"Thank you God that you blessed me with this martyrdom," said Isma'il al-'Amayirah. "I thank God for this mercy."

Relatives of the accused were not allowed into the heavily guarded courthouse in northeast Amman apparently because of security concerns. They stood outside the court building, where scores of policemen and plainclothes security officers were posted.

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In the trial that began Aug. 27, the prosecution said that primitive explosive material found at the homes of some defendants matched those used in the attacks.

Outside the court, dozens of family members, including mothers in traditional long robes, sobbed and cursed the court.

The state accused the men of bombing two cinemas showing soft-porn movies and of foiled attempts to bomb a cinema and a supermarket selling alcohol—all symbols of Western values they oppose.

It said they planned to assassinate leading Jordanians, including 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Jordan's former chief peace negotiator with Israel and now prime minister, and attack state institutions, night clubs and video rental shops.

'Id al-Jahalin, his sentence reduced from death to 20 years in jail, was carried from the court by police. He lost his legs when a bomb he placed in a coconut shell went off under his cinema seat.

Mr. al-Jahalin was the only one to confess. Others withdrew confessions during the trial, saying they were extracted by force. The government denied the charge.

Arab states like Egypt and Algeria accuse veterans of the Afghan war that toppled the Soviet-backed Kabul government in 1992 of trying to overthrow their own governments.

Nine people were injured in two bombings of cinemas on Jan. 26 in Amman and on Feb. 1 in al-Zarqa', 20 kilometres north of the capital.

When the accused were arrested in early February, the Interior Ministry said they had planned to blow up Parliament and other public buildings as well as rob banks and attack prominent Jordanians.

Close to 400 Jordanians and Palestinians who trained in Afghanistan alongside the mujahidin have returned to Jordan in the past year.

The seven acquitted were identified as: Muhammad al-Fahmawi, 'Umar al-Shawahin, 'Isam al-Dayah, Ra'd al-Kasabirah, Walid 'Ashsha, Muhammad Ziyadah, and 'Abd-al-Majid Abu-Dayyah.

Those given the death sentence were: 'Abdallah al-Hashayikah, Isma'il al-'Amayirah, Zakariya Qasim, Muhammad al-Harithi (an Omani national who remains at large), Muhammad Abu-'Abbad, Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Fattah, Samir Ahmad Muhammad, Yasin Zahrah, Sulayman Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al, Yahya 'Uwaydat Muhammad al-Sawrikah (still at large) and Muhammad Jamal Khalifah (Saudi national still at large).

Others sentenced to jail were: Jihad al-Tanjirah (life sentence), Khalil 'Alqam (life), Muhammad Dar-'Awdah (life), 'Id al-Jahalin (20 years with hard labour), Hasan Hamdan 'Abd-al-Qadir (a minor) (12 years in jail), Khalid Abu-Dumah (7-1/2 years with hard labour).

IAF Urges Russia To End 'Intervention' in Chechnya

JN2212115394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Wednesday [21 December] sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin urging Russia to end its military intervention in Chechnya and stressing that armed conflict was bound to damage the interests of both the Russian and Chechen peoples.

The message, sent via the Russian ambassador to Jordan, said the IAF hopes Moscow would re-examine its position towards the Chechen Republic and end the armed conflict which only deepens hatred between the two sides.

"The IAF members of the Jordanian Parliament, acting from the religious links with the Chechen people and out of belief of the Chechens' right to self determination and with a view to ensuring the continuation of the good relations between your country and the Arab and the Islamic World hope that the military attack on the Chechen Republic would be immediately halted," said the message.

The message said that the conflict was bound to trigger a long war of attrition with the two peoples of Russia and Chechnya paying a heavy price similar to the situations that resulted from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Vietnam.

Nothing that Russia is numerically and militarily far stronger than the Chechen Republic, the IAF statement said that these were not sufficient elements for deciding the outcome of the conflict.

The Chechens have a just cause and enjoy the sympathy and support of the world and that renders any military victory futile in restoring peace and security to the region, the message stressed.

"The IAF members of Parliament in Jordan do not accept the Russian determination to retain the Chechen Republic within the Russian Federation against its people's wishes and do not wish to see Russia ruling the Chechen area after devastating it and obliterating its people. It is therefore more sensible for Russia to halt the war and direct the funds being spend on it towards improving the economic conditions of the Russian people," said the statement.

The statement reminded the Russian president of the fact that Russia was keen on maintaining strong ties with the Arab and Islamic World based on mutual respect and that this fact ought to prompt Russia to listen to the call of reason and wisdom and open serious negotiations that would ensure the right of the Chechen people to self-determination.

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The IAF statement said that the Russian attack can only be interpreted as an act of colonisation, "motivated by the lust for imposing oppression on the weak nations."

The Jordanian government Tuesday deplored the current events in the Chechen area as tragic urging the warring parties to settle their dispute through peaceful means.

Israeli Tour Agents Visit To Develop Projects

JN2212120594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Dec 94 p 12

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Rana Husayni]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Petra—A group of nearly 500 Israeli tour operators paid a one-day visit to Jordan on Wednesday as part of joint Jordanian-Israeli efforts to develop joint tourism packages following the signing of their peace treaty on Oct. 26.

The group of 456 tour operators, which visited al-'Aqabah and Petra, was the first such team to come to the Kingdom, which has signed an accord with Israel to offer joint packages to American tourists.

Such packages would include the ancient city of Petra but with clear plans to preserve the ruins at the rose-red Nabatean city, said Ghassan Miflih, secretary-general of the Ministry of Tourism.

"We have discussed future plans with the Israeli Ministry of Tourism and our focus will be on preserving Petra," Mr. Miflih told the JORDAN TIMES. The ministry has set aside an allocation for the project and intends to announce the details "sometime next week," he said.

Eli Gonen, Mr. Miflih's Israeli counterpart, expressed the optimism behind the Israeli team's visit to Jordan, particularly Petra, a magnet for Israeli tourists.

"Petra is a wonderful sight and unique. It is one of the most important sights in the world," Mr. Gonen said. "I think it was a very important visit that can promote and increase the number of Israeli tourists coming to Jordan.

Mr. Gonen told the JORDAN TIMES he was also optimistic that Jordan and Israel could successfully market joint tour packages.

"I spoke to many of the tour agents, and they were very impressed with Petra and the steps the Ministry of Tourism has taken to preserve Petra," he said.

Asked why there were more Israeli tourists visiting Jordan than Jordanians going to Israel, Mr. Gonen said: "I am sure that slowly but surely the traffic will be both ways and many Jordanians will be visiting Israel...I am sure that Jordanians will feel at home when they visit Israel."

He said tourism was the first stage of cooperation between Israel and Jordan, and "the two countries will work together to promote the region and the economies of both countries will benefit the most."

Members of the Israeli team echoed the optimism.

"This is the second time I come to Petra and I am very optimistic about the group's visit, and hope that the visit will give a good impression and encourage more Israeli tourists to visit the country." said Allon Yerushalmi, representative of the Galilee Tours Company which organised the event.

"People are very kind here and they understand the importance of tourism and try to provide good service," Mr. Yerushalmi told the JORDAN TIMES.

Arwa Hijazin of the Tyche Tours and Travels, the company which coordinated the Israeli team's visit with Galilee Tours, said:

"It was a very successful trip and we hope that it would promote tourism to Jordan in the upcoming years."

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Explosion Hits Beirut Southern Suburb of Sfayr

Casualties Reported

NC2112153394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

An explosion occurred in Beirut's southern suburb, specifically in the Sfayr area near al-Umara' bakery this afternoon. The blast left a number of people dead or wounded.

We will give you more details on the blast as they come.

Blood Donor Appeal for Injured

NC2112165094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1634 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a security source, a booby-trapped car exploded near the al-Inma' Cooperative in the Southern Suburb at 1645 today, killing two people and injuring eight others. The injured were rushed to the al-Sahil and al-Rasul al-'Azam hospitals, according to the Red Cross operations room.

The al-Sahil, al-Rasul al-'Azam, and Sainte Therese hospitals have urged citizens to donate blood of various types. Three wounded people are in dire need of blood at the Sainte Therese Hospital.

Preliminary Reports Say 2 Killed

NC2112163094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [words indistinct] in a heavily populated area. Preliminary reports say that two persons were killed and more than eight were injured in the explosion. The body of an unidentified 20-year-old man was taken to the hospital. Citizen Fu'ad Mughniyah was killed. Among the wounded were Muhammad Hassun, who was taken into the operating theater and is reported to be in very serious condition, Bilal al-Zayn, who is in stable condition, and Hadi Qansuh, who has superficial injuries and who left the al-Sahil Hospital after treatment.

The explosion caused a one meter crater and broke the glass in neighboring buildings. The security forces threw a cordon around the area and a number of Hizballah gunmen were seen around the Bi'r al-'Abid Mosque, which is 150 meters

Hizballah Security Official Among Dead

NC2112210694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A booby-trapped car explosion near al-Inma' Consumers Cooperative in the Sfayr District at 1630 today killed three people and wounded 16 others.

Those killed are Fu'ad Mughanniyah, 'Ali al-Mislimani, and Egyptian national Muhammad Hassun.

Hizballah sources said the deceased Fu'ad Mughanniyah is a security official in the party and the brother of 'Imad Mughanniyah, the prime suspect in kidnapping foreign hostages and now living in Iran. from the explosion site.

Two Suspects Under Interrogation

NC2212092694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A security source reported today that the security forces have arrested two persons suspected of involvement in the bombing that killed three people and wounded approximately 20 others in the Sfayr neighborhood in Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday.

The source said that the two persons, who have yet to be unidentified and whose nationality remains unknown, are being interrogated.

Hizballah Accuses Israel of Causing Vehicle Explosion

'Criminal Hand' Identified

NC2112194694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The explosion of a booby-trapped Volkswagen van in the Sfayr District of the Southern Suburb has killed three people and wounded 16 others. The explosion, which occurred near the al-Inma' consumers cooperative at 1630, caused massive material damage to cars and window glasses of buildings.

Hizballah has accused Israel of causing the explosion. In a statement, Hizballah said there is no doubt about the identity of the criminal hand that caused the evil explosion. After repeated threats by its leaders, the Zionist enemy and its explosives agencies perpetrated a vile crime against civilians. This, the statement added, is another evidence exposing the false claims of peace with an enemy who knows nothing but treachery and betrayal.

TPe last booby-trapped car explosion in Beirut took place exactly one year ago. It targeted the Lebanese Phalangist Party's summer headquarters in al-Sayfi.

Hizballah Vows Revenge

LD2112223994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday [21 December] evening as the result of the explosion of a vehicle in the southern suburbs of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, a number of the Muslim people of that town were killed or wounded. Our correspondent has sent us the following report on this incident:

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[Correspondent] A powerful explosion shook the southern suburbs of Beirut on Wednesday night. A number of children, women, and innocent civilians of that region were martyred or wounded as a result. A Lebanese police expert announced that this explosion was brought about as the result of the blowing up of a vehicle containing 70 kg of TNT in front of a store in the crowded Sfayr District, as the result of which three people inside the store were martyred and 15 other shoppers, employees of the store and a number of passers-by were wounded. A number of shops and cars also sustained substantial damage. Following this explosion, Lebanese security forces and the police sealed off the area and transferred the bodies of the martyrs and the wounded to Beirut hospitals.

The revolutionary Lebanese Hizballah movement immediately issued a statement, accusing the Zionist regime of involvement in that explosion and pointing out that after repeated threats by Tel Aviv officials, Israel's intelligence agency MOSAD has perpetrated another crime against Lebanese civilians, thus trying to cover up its weakness and defeat in the face of the fighters of the Islamic Resistance in the battlefront in southern Lebanon.

Stressing that the claims of the Zionist regime in seeking peace are totally false and without foundation, the Hizballah warned that Hizballah forces will avenge the blood of the martyrs of this latest crime by the Zionists.

It should be added that following the brave operations of the Hizballah forces against the Zionist soldiers in the south of Lebanon which have led to the killing of a number of them, Tel Aviv officials in their repeated threats had announced that they would respond to Hizballah operations outside the occupied strip in the south of Lebanon.

Hizballah Sources Comment on Beirut Bombing

NC2212084694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has declared that the enemy has implemented his threat to carry out attacks outside the occupied border zone. He noted that the [southern Beirut bombing] crime was preceded by bombings in the south. His eminence said that the enemy, finding no scope for extensive military operations, has resorted to this method.

Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah described the incident as a tax paid by those who stand steadfast against the Zionist threats. He declared that the crime is designed to create confusion on the domestic front.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, said that the incident was an implementation of Israel's recent threats that must be confronted by a national stance. He noted that it is necessary not to be misled and believe that a domestic party stands behind the attack.

Shams-al-Din remarked that the target is neither Hizballah nor the resistance movement but Lebanon as a whole. His eminence affirmed that the message is clear and understood, noting that the response will be in the form of escalated resistance.

Commenting on the massacre perpetrated by the Zionist enemy in Beirut's southern suburb yesterday, Hizballah issued a statement saying: Following the Zionist enemy's repeated threats, this enemy and its saboteur organs have perpetrated a hideous crime against some citizens. Today's ugly crime is an additional proof of the enemy's brutality against our nation and of his cowardly avoidance of face-to-face combat.

The statement noted that the Zionists have always sought to undermine the Lebanese society's existence, domestic peace, and stability and that this has taken the form of several massacres against civilians.

Hizballah's statement continued: Innocent blood is again shed and victims and martyrs fall to refute the claim that it is possible to make peace with an enemy who knows only betrayal, treachery, and aggression.

Hajj Husayn Khalil, chairman of Hizballah's Political Bureau, emphasized that the party will avenge the martyrs' innocent and blessed blood. He said that their pure blood was shed in Beirut to be mixed with the equally sacred blood that has watered Jabal 'Amil and western al-Biqa'.

During a television interview, Hajj Khalil announced: God willing, we will take revenge on the Zionist gangs and this usurping occupier enemy.

Hajj Khalil pointed out that the bombing in Beirut's Sfayr neighborhood is a clear example of the Zionist enemy's criminal mentality, which seeks by day and night to sow death and destruction and shed the blood of innocent civilians.

He noted that the latest massacre expresses the extent of the Zionist leaders' despair in the wake of the repeated defeats inflicted on them by the Islamic Resistance's valiant heroes who have repeatedly recorded sagas of heroism in the south and western al-Biqa'. He added that this despairing enemy has now come to vent his hate over the heads of civilians after fleeing combat with those heroes.

Hajj Khalil added that the public statements made by the Zionist enemy's leaders that they will attack targets outside the occupied border zone clearly show who is responsible. He referred to the enemy chief of staff's remarks that the enemies have made some of these operations known but that there are operations that remain undeclared.

Hajj Khalil said that the latest massacre is one of the many sinful aggressions carried out by the Zionist usurpers.

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Official sources in Hizballah said that the enemy has opened the battle in this hideous manner. They remarked that attacks on civilian targets as a form of pressure on the resistance will not reduce its operations in the occupied areas. They pointed out that the resistance has sufficient methods to retaliate against these crimes.

IDF Soldier Killed in Security Zone

TA1912160494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Sergeant Hadar Kehati, 19, of Rehovot was killed and another soldier was slightly wounded by terrorist gunfire in the eastern sector of the security zone this morning. The fallen soldier's next of kin have been notified.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Sgt. Kehati was killed when mortar fire was directed at an IDF outpost in Tallusah.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 19 December carries a similar report that includes a recording in which Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, reacts to the incident by saying: "We will continue to operate against Hizballah in that area, as well as in other locations." Baraq goes on to say: "We are undertaking a great deal of activity, and the new Northern Command general continues its operations, as did his predecessor. The forces will continue to take any action that appears proper to us, has a good chance of hitting Hizballah, and exploits our advantage on the edge of the security zone, beyond it, and even deeper."]

Buwayz on Israeli Threats, Security Issue

NC2112151794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference held this afternoon, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz dealt with various topics including the recent Israeli threats, the Lebanese-U.S. Security Committee, and the United Nations ignoring Resolution 425.

The foreign minister stressed that the only solution to the situation in the south rests in Israel's withdrawal from this region. He said that the Lebanese security committee's task is to brief the Americans on the progress achieved thus far. Buwayz maintained that ignoring Resolution 425 is part of the prevailing atmosphere at the United Nations. Our correspondent Khalil Fulayhan sent us the following report from the foreign ministry building:

[Begin recording] [Fulaynan] Foreign Minister Buwayz had the following comments on the repeated Israeli threats:

[Buwayz] We hope that Israel will realize that the only remedy for the security situation in the south rests in an Israeli withdrawal from the south and that all the technological, military, security, and intelligence methods so far used have not produced any results.

[Fulaynan] Can we know what the task of the Lebanese security committee will be during its visit to Washington in January?

[Buwayz] The tasks of this committee will be confined to just Lebanese-U.S. issues. This committee will brief the U.S. side on the security accomplishments achieved in Lebanon over the past years and on the security situation, which no longer justifies U.S. measures adopted during the war years. I believe that the committee's tasks will be restricted to this subject and will attempt to waive the pretexts and excuses to the effect that U.S. interests in Lebanon are more threatened than in 90 percent of the world. [end recording]

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Radio Reports Ross's Remarks on Golan Withdrawal

JN2212090794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator general of peace negotiations' affairs, has said that Syria insists on a comprehensive [Israeli] withdrawal from the lands occupied on 4 June 1967. In a meeting with representatives of Arab and Jewish organizations in the United States, he said that security arrangements between Syria and Israel cannot be seriously discussed before achieving withdrawal from the Golan. He added that the gap is still wide between the positions of Syria and Israel over substantive issues.

Al-Asad Confers With Lebanese Prime Minister

JN2012212594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in al-Rawdah Palace at 1200 today. Talks centered on Arab, regional, and bilateral issues, as well as the peace process in the region.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Discuss Arab Issues on Phone

JN1812185094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received a telephone call from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Talks dealt with bilateral and Arab issues.

Cabinet Reviews Political Developments, ICO Summit

JN2012182494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1100 today chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. It reviewed the work of the economic committee and discussed current political developments in both the Arab and international arenas.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' then reviewed the results of the Islamic summit in Casablanca, as well as developments in the peace process. He also briefed the Council on the results of the recent meeting in Brussels of the European-Syrian Cooperation Council. [passage omitted]

Paper Sees 'Complementary Role' for Syrian Oil

JN2012113394 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Nov 94 p 8

[Article by Yusra al-Masri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the policy of economic pluralism and the political stability enjoyed by Syria, several Arab and foreign shareholding companies have come to the country to implement economic, industrial, and oil projects. One of them is the Arab Oil Investments Company, which is based in Saudi Arabia and is very active in Syria. It has participated in several economic projects in the oil, gas, industrial, chemical, and petrochemical fields.

TISHRIN has interviewed the company's general manager, Dr. Nur al-Din Farraj, on his visit to Syria last week and his meeting with Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Engineer Nadir Nabulsi. During the meeting they discussed the company's role in financing oil projects and various other means of cooperation. [passage omitted]

Regarding this visit, Dr. Farraj said that it was a routine visit, especially since Syria is a founding member of the Oil Investments Company.

Regarding the company's activities in Syria, Dr. Farraj explained: Since its establishment, the company has been active in financing oil discovery projects in Syria. These were followed by projects for developing oil refineries, chemical fertilizer plants, and gas. It also cooperated in some technical studies in the fertilizer sector. Later, the company financed the modernization and development of Baniyas Oil Refinery by adding more advanced technical units to it. The company also participated and is still participating in projects to develop the gas treatment plant in al-Jabsah, extend the gas oil pipeline to Hims, and develop the gas fields in Tadmur.

Dr. Farraj estimated the total loans given for these projects at $120 million. He added: These loans are international loans, in the sense that they make it conditional that the money will spent to develop the Arab economic sector. Although they are not entirely loans on easy terms, they are more like development loans. Their repayment begins after the completion of the project and is extended for several years.

Dr. Farraj described the future of oil and gas in Syria as positive. He said that current discoveries are of a medium and modest size. He added: According to the information available, Syria is not expected to be an oil exporting country on a world basis, but on a modest level.

Dr. Farraj pointed out that many economists are of the opinion that Syria's economic future lies in industry and agriculture rather than oil. Despite its importance, the oil industry should be viewed as complementary to and a support for the industrial and agricultural sectors, providing them with the energy they need and the necessary liquidity to finance their investments. [passage omitted]

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Bangladesh

Article Sees 'Constitutional Crisis' Ahead

BK2112152094 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 15 Dec 94 p 1

[Article by Mobaidur Rahman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Resignation of over 150 opposition MP's from Parliament is more or less certain unless anything extraordinary happens or the two major political parties—the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] and the Awami League [AL]—change their stand within the next 10 to 12 days. This resignation would plunge the nation into a great crisis. Though it appears that this would lead to a political crisis, but it will be soon seen that the resignation of about half of the total MP's would lead to a grave constitutional crisis. The leaders of the ruling and opposition parties are of the opinion that the situation would be under their control after the resignation. Informed quarters are of the opinion that this situation would lead to a constitutional vacuum and crisis. Political experts have voiced concern, saying it will not be possible to resolve this crisis in a constitutional manner if the government and the opposition camps fail to take calculated steps now. A lot of rumors have been heard in the political arena since 6 December when the opposition parties gave an ultimatum to Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman to resolve all problems through dialogue by 27 December. For the past week, it is seen that rumors are originating from both the ruling and opposition camps.

Apart from political quarters, curious people are asking questions about the prevailing situation even in social gatherings. They say "What is the news, brother?" When they are asked counterquestions, these people say that they are hearing certain reports and ask, "What is the matter, brother?" "Will Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman address the nation on 16 December and say that she is stepping down and ask the opposition to come and form a government? Does the BNP want Sheikh Hasina [president of the opposition Awami League] to be the head of the caretaker government? Is the United States exerting tremendous pressure on the opposition parties?" This has been learned from high-level sources of the society. "Is Sheikh Hasina no longer adamant on the caretaker issue due to U.S. pressure?" There is another rumor. "Is a severe tussle going on between Jatiya Party leaders Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Moudud Ahmed?" It has been learned that Moudud is maintaining secret contacts with Khaleda Ziaur Rahman. There is another rumor that the MP's of the Jamaat-e-Islami are hesitating to resign. After hearing all these rumors, a political insider remarked that "a boat loaded with rumors is sailing by."

DAINIK INQILAB in earlier reports said that the attitude of the ruling BNP is becoming more and more stern. The firm stand expressed earlier by Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman while addressing a rally at the Shapla Square was reiterated by her in the rally held at the Democracy Square on 6 December. On that day, the prime minister gave two significant hints. One of these was the statement "I am not Justice Sattar [former president who handed over power to army General Ershad], I am Khaleda Zia". The second remark made by the prime minister was "No one will be able to make the BNP sign the written bond of slavery". There are a lot of speculations in the political arena as to why the prime minister gave a stern warning to a particular quarter. A brief summary of these speculations is as follows: Six MP's of the ruling BNP who are lawyers, several of whom are ministers, have told the party high command that the strength of the ruling party is the present Constitution and the parliamentary majority of the party. If the opposition MP's resign, then the situation can be tackled by invoking the relevant provisions of the Constitution. In accordance with the provisions of Section 123 (3 A) and Subsection 4 of the Constitution, if a seat in Parliament becomes vacant then it should be filled within 90 days from the date of vacancy through fresh elections. Elections can also be held by dissolving the Parliament under Subsections 3 and 4 of Section 123 of the Constitution and holding general elections. This vacancy can also be filled through by-elections. In both the cases elections should be held within 90 days.

Though holding of elections is mandatory within 90 days as per the provisions of the above-mentioned section and subsection of the Constitution, but this provision can be relaxed under certain circumstances. According to the provisions of subsection 4 of Section 123 of the Constitution, the time limit for holding elections can be extended from 90 days to six months. On page 104 of the Constitution, Subsection 4 of Section 123 says that if the chief election commissioner feels that it is not possible to hold elections within 90 days due to any unforeseen calamity then he can extend the time limit for the holding of elections to 180 days.

Several sources close to the BNP high command said that the ruling party is willing to accept all the demands of the opposition parties, but it is not willing to make any compromise regarding their demand for removal of Khaleda Ziaur Rahman from power. The ruling party has further decided that if they fail to prevent the opposition MPs from resigning, then they will face the situation through the holding of elections. The BNP has yet to decide whether this election will be a general election or a by-election. It has been learned that majority opinion in the party is in favor of holding general elections. They are of the view that holding of by-elections in more than 150 seats is equivalent to the holding of general elections. On the other hand, if by-elections are held in phases, then it will look awkward, and the opposition parties would get the opportunity to interpret it as a motivated decision.

A powerful faction in the BNP is of the opinion that it would be possible to issue identity cards to voters if elections are held within six months as per the provisions

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of Subsection 4 of Section 123 of the Constitution. They say identity cards would help reduce 5 percent of the votes from the vote bank of the opposition parties, particularly of the Awami League.

A senior opposition leader said that they realized a long time ago that the BNP will not accept their demand regarding the formation of a caretaker government. They also know that resignation is the last resort for them to realize their demand. Salahuddin Yusuf, MP, said that they are continuing their boycott of the Parliament knowing full well that their membership will be cancelled if they continuously abstain from Parliament for 90 working days. Awami League leader, Mohammad Nasim, said that they will play the real game after 28 December. After their resignation, they will reveal what kinds of antigovernment movements they can launch.

Sources close to the Awami League and the Jatiya Party said that the government will announce fresh elections in the seats that will become vacant due to the resignation of opposition MP's. They said the opposition would resist this election at any cost. In this regard, a top leader of the Awami League, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that they will not need to wait until the date of the election to resist it. They would mould public opinion in such a way that except for the BNP, no other big parties and certainly no small ones, would dare to submit their nomination papers for the elections. These leaders expressed their firm resolve to shatter the dream of the BNP to make the minor parties join this election.

Constitutional analysts are of the view that a severe constitutional crisis will grip the country if elections are foiled due to strong and all-out resistance put up by the opposition parties. These analysts, citing the provisions of the Constitution, said that if over 150 MP's resign from Parliament then in accordance with Section 123 of the Constitution the Parliament should be dissolved, and fresh elections should be announced. In accordance with the provisions of Section 56, Subsection 4, of the Constitution, Khaleda Ziaur Rahman will continue to remain as the head of the interim government until the holding of fresh elections. The provisions of Section 123, Subsection 4 of the Constitution say that if the government fails to hold elections within three months, then it will not be possible to extend the time limit for the holding of elections by another three months as the Parliament has already been dissolved. Who will give the approval for the extension of the time limit? The opposition parties will resist any such move. In such a complex situation, the only path left open for the government will be to amend the Constitution. In accordance with Subsections 8, 48, and 56 of Section 142 of the Constitution, the support of the two-thirds of the members of the Parliament is needed to bring about any major change in the Constitution relating to the principles for running affairs of the state, appointment and removal of the president, appointment of the prime minister and other ministers, and other issues. Cooperation of the opposition parties is needed to bring about any amendment. After the resignation of opposition members and dissolution of the Parliament, the Constitution cannot be amended with a view to changing the three months needed for the holding of elections to six months.

In such a situation, the only alternative left will be to declare a state of emergency. Constitutional experts say that in accordance with Section 141, Subsection 1 of the Constitution, the signature of the prime minister is needed in the announcement to be made before declaring a state of emergency. If the prime minister gives her signature, then the declaration of emergency should be ratified by Parliament within 120 days as per the provisions of Section 141, Subsection 2(c) of the Constitution. Who will approve the state of emergency if the opposition MP's resign on 28 December and the parliament is dissolved? It may be possible to give approval to declaration of emergency within 30 days from the date of reconstitution of the new Parliament. How can the prime minister and her Cabinet continue in office after 90 days if the opposition parties are successful in resisting the elections? Under these circumstances the present Constitution will become ineffective. The state of emergency will also lose its legality and effectiveness after 120 days from the date of its proclamation. What will happen then? Observers, informed quarters, and constitutional experts are of the opinion that in this case a severe constitutional crisis and vacuum will be created, as there is no provision in the present Constitution to overcome these complexities. Under these circumstances the only alternative left will be to suspend the Constitution. Intellectuals are of the opinion that political parties should consider the disastrous impact of these complexities and think about what should be done now.

India

Editorial Weighs Defense Cooperation With U.S.

BK2112120594 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 19 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "How Should India Cooperate With the United States in Defense Preparation?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To make the upcoming visit of U.S. Defense Secretary Mr. William Perry, 11-14 January, a success, two top U.S. defense officials have already arrived in India. During the visit last May of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to the United States, an agreement between the two governments was reached to strengthen the defense relations between India and the United States. Prior to this, the U.S. pressure on India to not deploy its missiles in strategic positions had been the center of animated discussion inside and outside the U.S. Congress. It was perhaps for this reason that the test-firing of the India's "Prithvi" missile was postponed before Mr. Rao's U.S. visits. So when both countries reached an agreement about intensifying their mutual

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relations regarding defense preparations, the defense circles were taken a bit by surprise, as on one side there was strong U.S. pressure on India to forgo its missile program, while on the other both countries were reaching an agreement on strengthening mutual defense relations, which apparently looked like quite a contradiction in terms.

About 10 days ago, U.S. Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Slocombe and Commander of the U.S. Forces Pacific Admiral Richard Macke considered the possibilities of cooperation with the Indian Army at the military level. Mr. Walter Slocombe talked about giving Indo-US defense relations a policy-oriented broad-based cooperation. Prior to this, a concept paper aimed at giving a tangible form to the U.S. defense cooperation had reached the Indian Defense Ministry and was under active consideration. Defense sources, however, indicate that India did not give it a favorable response because of its insistence on India's accepting the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and on not deploying missiles in strategic positions. Addressing Indian Army officials, Slocombe said that he did not want to develop defense cooperation with India at the cost of U.S. relations with Pakistan. He said that the main purpose of developing defense cooperation with India was to fulfill the U.S. hope to ensure peace and stability in the South Asian region through this cooperative program.

As far as Indian point of view is concerned, any endeavor to develop defense with a superpower must be construed as India's fortifying her position militarily. However, stressing the need to maintain the status-quo with the U.S. defense cooperation with Pakistan; showing only oral opposition to Pakistan's atomic program and her unleashing terrorism on Indian soil; and only mildly opposing Pakistan's deployment of the M-11 missiles cannot be regarded as showing consideration to India's security interests. The masses would welcome India's defense cooperation with the United States only when an atmosphere of real peace and amity is generated in the South Asian region. The mere acrobatic acts to strike a balance between U.S. relations with India and with Pakistan cannot remove India's worry regarding her security. Of course, the U.S. may also strengthen their defense relations with Pakistan, but the United States must tell Pakistan to stop sponsoring terrorism in the region and to cease giving any sort of help to the terrorists. Only an India well reassured of its integral solidarity can slacken its defense preparations a bit (even if these preparations include atomic or missile programs). The day India feels assured that there is no threat from Pakistan to its geographical solidarity and of the fact the latter is not getting any tacit approval from a third country, it may feel inclined to accept the NPT provisions (even by overlooking the danger from the Chinese side) without any inhibition. Despite the devastating atomic capacity and missile power of China for last three decades, India does not feel as frightened of China as it does of Pakistan's possessing just a couple of atomic bombs and a dozen missiles.

The greatest anomaly in the whole situation is the persistent U.S. desire to maintain a parity in her defense relations with India and Pakistan, even after realizing the drastic difference in the practicability of the atomic and missile policies of the two countries. Pakistan is defying the guidelines laid down by the United States for atomic and missile nonproliferation with impunity, and yet the United States takes no action. Still, if a superpower like the United States is willing to develop better defense relations with India, all possible implications need to be seriously considered. Refusing any initiative without proper consideration does not make for enlightened diplomacy. Especially from the naval point of view, this cooperation may prove quite fruitful for India's defense preparations. Even if not, one cannot fight against the pope while living in Rome. These mutual relations should be formed on the basis of mutual benefit. Only then can these relations can remain cordial. It is quite likely that both the United States and India may fear the efforts of China to fill the vacuum in the Indian Ocean created by the collapse of the Soviet Union. So, to forestall any attempt by China to enter the region, India and the United States must cooperate. Since the sea route for the U.S. oil-tankers carrying oil from the oil-rich Gulf countries passes through the Indian Ocean, this route can remain unhindered only if it is well guarded. Otherwise the Chinese nuclear submarines can pose a great threat to U.S. interests in the region. Also, since 95 percent of the Indian business concerns use sea routes for trade, India would also like this region to remain open and not come under Chinese hegemony. Most certainly this defense cooperation with the United States would enhance Indian standing in international circles. In modern times, India can ill afford to remain cut off from the rest of the world. However, the Indian policy makers must ensure that this cooperation in no way goes against long-term Indian interests. Otherwise whether inside Parliament or outside, questions will continue to be raised about India's reckless defense cooperation with the United States.

Editorial Says Dixon Plan for Kashmir Outdated

BK2112102094 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 20 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Dusty Dixon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The conditions have changed so drastically since the time Mr. Oven Dixon made a proposal for the division of Kashmir that even if both India and Pakistan were to accept this old U.S. proposal now, it could not be implemented. Pakistan illegally occupies almost one-third of Kashmir, wherein the structure of the population has undergone such a drastic change that the situation prevailing in 1950 cannot be restored. Gilgit has been added to Pakistan, and there has been a marked change in the character of the population of the original tribes living there. Pakistan

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has already made a deal with China regarding a part of Balatistan. Even in the part of Kashmir under India's control there has been a significant change in the ratio of the population decided on community and castist considerations. Hundreds of thousands of non-Muslims have migrated from the Kashmir Valley to other parts of the country since 1950, and during the last five years their exodus has been quite substantial. Most of these people have lost their residency right in accordance with the prevalent rules of citizenship in Kashmir. Under the circumstances, the norms of division of the state laid down by the then U.S. representative Dixon have lost their relevance. About four decades ago, the United States wanted complete Pakistani dominance so that Kashmir could emerge as an independent country. Pakistan had immediately refused Mr. Dixon's proposal because at that time she was not confident of getting the required support from the valley. The U.S. experts had realized this, and so they presented a detailed plan for Kashmir's independence before the then Chief Minister (called Prime Minister at that time) Sheikh Abdullah. This whole conspiracy was hatched secretly, without letting the Indian Government get any hint about it. It was only when this conspiracy was disclosed in 1953 that Sheikh Abudullah was arrested.

In fact, for many months the U.S. Administration has been pressuring the Indian Government to accept the proposal of division in the various parts of the state on the basis of the plebiscite to be held in different segments instead of holding one in the entire state at once, to find a solution to the Kashmir tangle. Some time back the U.S. ambassador to India, Mr. Frank Wisner, was sent to India with a proposal along similar lines by the U.S. Administration. He also said that holding a plebiscite in Kashmir is not the only way to resolve the Kashmir issue. Indian observers were misled to some extent, by believing that this stand signified a change in U.S. policy toward India and that it now favored India. However, by taking the initiative to have the two leaders of the Hurriyat Conference, Omar Farooq and Abbas Ansari, sent to Casablanca to attend the Islamic Conference Organization meeting, the United States' real intentions were exposed. Omar Sheikh went so far as to declare at the meeting that Kashmir had never been part of India. Thus having indirectly granted international recognition to this Kashmiri secessionist group, America's Dixon plan got an opportunity to revive itself. If the technical jargon of the Plan is freed from the text, in commonly understandable language it means that the Jammu and Ladonak sections of the state may remain with India, while the valley may either remain free or merge with Pakistan. If India was ever willing to accept this division on purely community lines, it didn't needed the mediation of the West nor of the Islamic countries nor of even the United Nations. If, after give decades of the bloody and expensive struggle, India returns to accept the Two-Nation Theory of 1947, it would not only sacrifice its prestige at the international level but will also sow the poisonous seeds of this dangerous theory inside her own territory.

Opposition Demands Resignation of Government

BK2212121994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Proceedings in Parliament was stalled for the second day by the opposition over the ATR [Action Taken Report on securities scam] and sugar muddle issues. The Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the day after two breaks, and the Lok Sabha also adjourned for the day. Our parliamentary correspondent reports that the trouble broke out in both the houses with the opposition demanding the resignation of the government and immediate action against those named in the two inquiry reports. Barring adoption of a resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, no business could be taken up despite several adjournments.

The scene was a repeat of yesterday's pandemonium with the opposition members also wanting to know whether there is any basis for newspaper reports on the human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, offering to resign. The appeals by the presiding officers that the House should go ahead with important legislative business had no effect on the opposition. The Congress-I members in the Rajya Sabha strongly resented the opposition obstructing the proceedings and wanted the House to take up the listed business.

Congress-I Denies Populist Slant for Next Election

BK2112162194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, today denied that the party is adopting populist measures in view of the coming assembly elections in some states.

Talking to reporters in New Delhi, he clarified that the socio-economic programs to be launched will not result in additional financial burden. In reply to a question, Mr. Gadgil said there was a suggestion in a report presented at the Congress-I Working Committee meeting yesterday to revise the 15-point program for the welfare of the minorities.

Trade, Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Israel

BK2212053894 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Israel have signed an agreement to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Under the agreement, both sides will accord the most-favored-nation treatment to each other

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in respect of import and export licenses, customs duties, and procedures relating to foreign trade.

The agreement was signed in New Delhi today by the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and the visiting Israeli minister of industry and trade, Mr. Mikha Harish. It is valid for five years. Under the agreement, all payments and settlements will be effective in freely convertible currencies. Both sides will promote cooperation in various fields of mutual interest. The two sides have agreed to establish a joint trade and economic committee consisting of official representatives of both countries for monitoring the implementation of the accord.

Though trade between India and Israel have been increasing rapidly after 1992, the current India-Israel trade stands at $500 million, which represents only a small fraction of the existing potential.

Japan To Provide 125 Billion Yen for Projects

OW2112130194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Japan will loan India a total of 125.7 billion yen to help the country finance 12 projects aimed at boosting the economic infrastructure and protecting the environment, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday [21 December].

Japanese and Indian Government officials exchanged documents on the aid in New Delhi earlier in the day, the ministry said.

The Japanese loan will help India finance six projects to construct and improve power plants and cables, two projects to expand and improve national roads, and four projects to promote environmental protection, it said.

The 30-year loan, with a grace period of 10 years, carries an annual interest rate of 2.6 percent. The latest aid brought the total amount of Japanese loans to India since 1957 to 1.6 trillion yen.

Iran

Central Bank 'Determined' To Honor Credit Letters

LD2012170194 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Dec. 20, IRNA—Governor of Iran's Central Bank, Mohsen Nurbakhsh, says that he is determined not to allow the country's previous arrears process to be repeated and is committed to a specific framework to put solutions into practice.

The new commitment including the honoring of all letters of credit in a more speedily way, which he said in an interview with the BANKER magazine, can be confirmed by exporters.

Another part of his plan is to normalise financial relations and to restore normal relations with major credit agencies, he told the London-based magazine, saying it was vital for Iran's financial commitments in the future to have the right structure.

Nurbakhsh's appointment as governor of Bank Markazi in September has been widely welcomed by government economists and businessmen alike as a positive step to repair Iran's banking reputation and as a move towards greater economic liberalisation.

It follows the rescheduling of some dlrs 11.5 billion worth of mainly short-term debts with main trading partners, which Nurbakhsh pointed out was still less than 25 per cent of GDP and much lower than most neighboring countries.

The special program to improve the credit-worthiness of the banking system, he said included putting into practice a specific framework covering all rescheduling agreements so that Iran's suppliers would know how past problems have been solved.

The Central Bank governor said that ministers and parliament had both given assurance over a clear policy to manage the country's commitments and debts.

With regard to the Second Five-Year Plan beginning next March, he said that it was realistic and very conservative and would continue the policies of the first, including the process of privatisation.

The volume of investment for the development plan is expected to be in excess of dlrs 60 billion for the five-year period, but unlike the first, there will be a different approach with no specific borrowing requirement.

Nurbakhsh said the right structures would be important in using long-term facilities and on the need for foreign investment. he said that the government is going to submit a new law to attract investors.

Official: No Extra Money Being Printed

LD2112174994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1300 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Only 69 percent of the previously estimated taxes have been paid this year. The head of the country's audit office said that the amount of tax received by the government from corporate and non-corporate persons since the beginning of the current year [beginning 21 March 1994] is 3.58 trillion rials. He added: The amount of tax received from government employees in the same period has passed the predicted figure of 297 billion rials, reaching 312 billion rials.

He said that the reason why the amount of tax received did not correspond to the predicted figure, was that some institutions and major production organizations owed back tax. The head of the country's audit office said that, during the stated period, the following companies became indebted to the government Assistance Fund for

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the following amounts in terms of tax on revenue: The Iran Khodrow Company 15 billion rials; Saipa 5 billion rials; the Organization for the Promotion of Iran's Industries 35 billion rials; and the Tobacco Organization 16 billion rials.

On the issue of the relative proportion between the amount of notes printed and Iran's reserves, the head of the country's audit office said: At the moment, the amount being held in the coffers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank as reserves backing the currency is three times the amount of money in circulation.

Country 'Determined' To Increase Non-Oil Exports

LD2112224694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to increase its non-oil exports to more than $27 billion during the Second Five—Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan which is to begin as of 21 March next year. The increase of 230 percent as compared to the First Five- Year Plan is to be realized through national determination and by creating appropriate grounds.

Speaking last week the head of Iran's Export Promotion Center Mr. 'Ali Sa'idlu said: $30 billion was spent on the production of goods in the country last year, and with the follow-up efforts new markets are expected to be gained during the next year.

It is to be noted that the total non-oil exports during the First Five-Year Plan stood at $12 billion.

Industrial Sector Increasing Share of GNP

LD2112224894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iranian Minister of Finance and Economy Mr. Morteza Mohammadkhan last week said the industrial sector's share in the GNP increased from seven percent in the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan to 14 percent by the end of 1993.

Mohammadkhan expressed the hope that during the next five years the share of the industrial sector in the GNP will increase to 35 percent. He added: Privatization is one of the government programs during the Second Five-Year Plan which is to be implemented as of next year. He said in this connection that handing over shares is not the only aim; rather the increase in production is the main objective.

Post Office To Halt Air Mail Delivery

LD2112115594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Post offices throughout the country will not accept any airmail packages such as letter, publications, registered letters, and small packages aimed for abroad starting tomorrow until further notice.

The Post Office said the reason for taking this decision is the existing of financial problems with the Islamic Republic Airline on repayment of its past debts.

It says the lack of the imbalance between the prices charged and the money allocated for the services, and the fact that the prices are being calculated on bases of the floating market rate and an increase in domestic air delivery charges, are the reason behind an increase in their expenses.

President Opens Methanol Project on Kharg Island

LD1612180194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the auspicious occasion of the birthday of the commander of the faithful, Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani inaugurated several reconstructed oil projects on Kharg Island today. Here is our correspondent with a report from Bushehr.

[Correspondent] The reconstruction of the T-jetty has entailed the clearing of 18,470 tonnes of destroyed metal structure and the construction of a 9,000 tonne jetty. The T-jetty is 1,800 meters long and ships up to 275,000 tonnes can be loaded there.

The president also inspected the modern measuring equipment of the T-jetty which were installed and commissioned recently. The T-jetty was reconstructed at a cost of rials 1,784 million or $137,501,000.

Another of the installations inspected by the president was the reconstructed Azarpad jetty. This jetty is 1,100 meters long, where 300,000 to 500,000 tonne ships are loaded. The reconstruction costs totalled over Rials 937,000,000 or $101,234,000.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also inspected 19 reconstructed storage tanks in Kharg island. The tanks, with a capacity of 11,388,000 barrels, bring the total capacity of crude oil stored in Kharg Island to 16,000,000 barrels. The reconstruction of the tanks has cost $40,000,000 or rials 23,000 million.

A methanol production project at the Kharg petrochemical complex was started this afternoon by the president. When the project becomes operational, 660 tonnes [Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1730 GMT mentions the amount as between 600,000 and 700,000 tonnes] of methanol—a raw material for petrochemicals—will be produced annually. The project will cover an area measuring 15 hectares. A total of $264,032,000 or rials 130,521 million have been earmarked for the project, which is expected to be completed by 1377 [year beginning 21 March 1998]. The project is one of first of petrochemical projects in the

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Second State Development Plan to be started by the President. [passage omitted] [end correspondent]

According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, during the ceremony for the start the methanol production project, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that this important project is one from the Second State Development Plan which is beginning three months before the implementation of the Plan. He added: This is one of the projects that are being carried out with a credit from the World Bank. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Calls For Open Trials

LD1912194794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the judicial branch asked judges throughout the country, on the eve of the blessed 10 Days of Dawn, that they should issue their decisions on the cases of persons who have been detained and are awaiting bail. At today's meeting of the country's judicial officials, Mr. Mohammad Yazdi referred to Article 105 of the Constitution and emphasized that all trials have to be held openly. He said: Trials will only be conducted in-camera if the judge responsible for the court case deems that an open trial would contravene public order and decency, and if the sides to the dispute request that the trial be held in-camera.

It was also announced in today's session that the files of those foreigners who have a criminal record should be attended to out of turn.

GCC Collective Defense Viewed 'Unattainable'

NC2212092194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 22 Dec 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The summit of the six members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ended yesterday and a final communique was issued that describes Iraq's recognition of Kuwait as positive, stresses the need for a peaceful resolution of disputes among regional countries, and expresses regrets over the impasse in the Syrian-Israeli peace talks. Underlining the need for defense and security cooperation among the members, the GCC heads have called for the quick formation of a collective military force.

Efforts to set up a collective military force is not a new issue for the GCC. Since its formation, the GCC has constantly pursued this idea. The establishment of a collective military force at a time when the GCC members are strongly involved in border disputes is considered to be an unattainable objective. Although during the current GCC conference efforts were made to find a solution for border disputes and the peaceful resolution of such problems was encouraged, in view of the historic record of such disputes as well as their nature, which are considered a threat against the territorial integrity of each one of the GCC members, a solution appears to be remote. Thus, one can foresee that these disputes will continue, which can hinder the GCC's plans and programs.

The border dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar have exacerbated recently. This dispute is so intense that Qatar was expected to boycott the summit in Manama. One month ago, following the exacerbation of the Qatari-Saudi dispute, Qatar did not participate in the GCC interior ministers' session in Riyadh and refused to sign the security plan put forth during that session.

Qatar and Bahrain also have been constantly involved in a quarrel over their disputed islands. These differences have led to yet another rift in the GCC.

Although the GCC members are striving to make the formation of a collective military force possible by propounding common security threats, their differences have prevented them from dealing with such common threats. Each one of the members has a different interpretation of security, the safeguarding of territorial integrity, and how the joint military force should be formed. This is a problem that the GCC members will always face as long as they do not fully overcome their differences.

Thus, in view of the depth of these differences, the formation of a collective military force appears to be an impossible objective and something that is out of the reach of the GCC members.

Islamic Assembly Condemns Bahraini Officials' Reaction

LD2112133794 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—The Ahl-al-Bayt World Assembly Wednesday [21 Wednesday] issued a statement concerning the recent clashes in Bahrain and condemned the reaction of the Bahraini officials in confronting their Muslim opponents.

"Recent reports coming from Bahrain indicate all-out public protest towards the chaotic social situation, the opening of fire at Muslim opponents by the police, arrest of a number of clerics and youths and creating terror in some regions," the statement read.

Denouncing the policies adopted by the Bahraini officials in this respect, the statement [words indistinct] the Bahraini Government to eliminate [words indistinct] causes and grounds that have prompted such "legitimate protests."

"The Ahl-al-Bayt World Assembly called on the Bahraini officials to provide a free Islamic atmosphere, listen to the voice of the Muslim masses, and respect the people's basic rights in establishing their social-political structure."

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The assembly underlined that using violent manners, killing, torturing and arresting Muslim people of that country who, according to all Islamic rules and universal and Islamic human rights declarations have called for their legitimate rights, would bear no fruit.

Va'ezi Views Tajik Peace Talks

LD2112202194 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi disclosed that the fourth round of peace talks on Tajikistan will resume in Moscow in the second half of January. Speaking to the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' published Wednesday [21 December], he hailed the observance by warring parties in Tajikistan of the truce they agreed upon as a result of the September talks held in Tehran.

"Iran will send its representative to Moscow to help in the peace process," he underlined. "We welcome the observation by both sides of the ceasefire," he said, and hoped a sincere and serious measure will be taken in the Russian capital towards an enduring peace in Tajikistan.

Va'ezi has been successfully involved in a series of mediatory roles on behalf of the Islamic republic in conflicts such as those between Azerbaijan and Armenia and the opposing forces in Tajikistan's internal turmoil, the paper noted.

"There is no other way for the bloody war to end except through negotiations," he stressed.

The daily added that the war in Tajikistan started in 1992 when opposition forces, including Islamists, lost power to the communists. Russia, backing the Tajik Government, sent 25,000 troops to the central Asian republic.

The U.N. mediated talks were first held in Moscow, Tehran and Islamabad. The fourth round of talks, to be attended by representatives of the Islamic republic, Pakistan, and Russia, are to take place in Moscow with the participation of all parties in the dispute, said the daily.

On former U.S. President, Jimmy Carter's trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Iranian official said the trip would only lead to further massacre of Bosnian Muslims by the Serbs. "If the Serbs want to recognize the due rights of the Bosnian Muslims, they could have done so in an earlier peace process," Va'ezi remarked.

He further criticized certain influential countries in the U.N. Security Council who, on one pretext or another, strengthen the Serbs and make the call for a [words indistinct].

Velayati, Turkmen Vice President Discuss ICO, Oil

LD2112211094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Boris Shikhmuradov, vice president of Turkmenistan, and Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of our country, in a telephone conversation today exchanged views about the issues of interest to the two countries.

In this telephone conversation, Mr. Shikhmuradov provided some details about the convening of a meeting of the foreign affairs ministers of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] member countries and the Caspian Sea littoral states in Ashgabat, as well as the upcoming visit of the president of Turkmenistan to Iran.

Referring to the convening of a future trilateral meeting between Iran, Turkey, and Turkmenistan in Turkey over the implementation of the gas pipeline project, he expressed his hope that necessary cooperation among the three countries would take place in order to achieve the fastest possible progress in the implementation of this project.

Welcoming the holding of the session of ECO member countries and Caspian Sea states in Ashgabat, Mr. Velayati referred to the meeting of the leaders of the Islamic countries in Morocco, and the meeting of the opposing Afghan groups in Tehran, and said: In that session the important issues of the world of Islam, especially the issue of Bosnia, were discussed. Certain decisions were also made, including the convening of the next ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] summit in Tehran.

Concerning the meeting of the opposing Afghan groups in Tehran, our country's foreign minister added: In view of the fact that the representatives of the main Afghan groups, as well as representatives of the ICO and the UN participated in the Afghan peace talks, conditions came about so that, contrary to the past, those groups showed a willingness to solve the problems of Afghanistan and putting an end to fratricide through talks.

Austria Calls For Expansion of Educational Ties

LD2212091794 Tehran IRNA in English 0824 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Dec 22, IRNA—Austrian Science and Research Minister Rudolf Scholten expressed Austria's readiness for expansion of scientific and technical education cooperation with Iran.

At a meeting here Tuesday [20 December] with Iran's Ambassador to Austria Mehdi Mohtashami, the minister referred to the high Iran-Austrian volume of trade and noted the possibilities for developing and strengthening bilateral relations.

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Mohtashami, pointing to the presence of of around 4,000 Iranian students currently in Austria, called for exchange of university professors and students, as well as the establishment of Persian language courses in austrian universities.

Scholten also invited his Iranian counterpart to Austria, for consultations and exchange of views on bilateral relations.

Pakistan

Islamabad Rules Out Signing NPT Unilaterally

BK2212112694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has reiterated its commitment to the goal of nuclear nonproliferation, both globally and regionally, and made it clear that it will not accept any unilateral or discriminatory restraints. A Foreign Office spokesman in a statement in Islamabad today said Pakistan has no intention to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unilaterally and declared that it will sign it simultaneously with India.

Continuation of Nuclear Policy, Program Urged

BK2212085794 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 22 Dec 94 p 10

[Editorial: "No Compromise on National Security"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an apparent effort to dispel apprehensions pertaining to the forthcoming visit of US Defence Secretary William Perry, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has made it clear that Pakistan is not considering trading in its nuclear option in lieu of any kind of a security umbrella provided by some other country. From his observations it is clear that Pakistan remains firm in its position that the nuclear issue in South Asia has to be resolved on a regional basis. Mindful of the precedents that have been set in the case of states like North Korea and some of the states that were a part of the former Soviet Union, the foreign minister sought to emphasise the very real threat that was posed to Pakistan by a neighbouring country widely acknowledged as a nuclear armed state and one which was at the same time embarked on an ambitious nuclear programme. India in fact has consistently opposed all initiatives on the part of Pakistan to resolve the issue on a regional basis. In a recent move in the same vein it opposed, and not for the first time, the resolution of the UN General Assembly to declare South Asia a nuclear-free zone. As such there could be no justification for the continuing international pressure on Pakistan to renounce its nuclear option while India refused to demonstrate any willingness to scale down or even limit its nuclear programme.

There is, however, another aspect to the issue that needs to be carefully considered. Pakistan even as it steadfastly refuses to compromise on its security requirements cannot afford to be isolated internationally at this crucial juncture, given the need for support on issues such as Kashmir as well as external financial input in the context of much-needed development. The foreign minister has pointed out that Pakistan has been able to convince the world that it is a 'non-proliferationist state.' While this may be so, the Pressler Amendment, among other things, is indicative of the major reservations that the West including the US continue to have with regard to Pakistan's nuclear potential. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the restraint demonstrated by Pakistan in not aggressively pursuing its nuclear programme despite having the know-how and the means to do so has certainly given it credibility as a responsible state and to some extent has also brought India's aggressive designs into sharper focus, internationally. Pakistan, then has been treading this difficult line carefully. It should continue to do so.

Jama'at Chief To Lead Rally Against Perry Visit

BK2212083794 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 Dec 94 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore—Amir Jamaat-i-Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmad will lead a protest rally in Rawalpindi on January 6 against the visit of American Secretary of State for Defence William Perry to Pakistan, starting from the 7th of the next month.

Addressing a press conference at a local hotel on Wednesday [21 December], Qazi Hussain Ahmad said the Jammaat-i-Islami had organised this protest programme because it believed that the US Defence Secretary would persuade Pakistan to sign the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] unilaterally and that he would also finalise the modalities for the sell-out of the Gwadar port.

The Jamaat Chief was apprehensive that the government would not be able to resist this pressure being brought to bear upon Pakistan. He said this was why we decided to mobilise public opinion against any covert move to undermine national security.

He said now that the NPT was coming up for reformulation in April 1995 five big powers of the world-led by the United States had stepped up their efforts to keep other nations from attaining nuclear capability. He said these powers would do their best to ensure that NPT be extended for an indefinite period.

Qazi warned that ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty for indefinite period would [be] tantamount to snatching right of defence from countries which had not yet gone nuclear. He condemned the double standards of the United States in dealing with different countries vis-a-vis acquisition of nuclear capabilities.

He was of the view that Pakistan would have countered the Indian aggression way back in 1971 had it possessed nuclear deterrent at that time. He said it is about time

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that Pakistan take a strong stand and refuse to sign any such agreement being forced on it to cap its nuclear programme.

He said the Government should immediately take the nation into confidence about the exact status of its nuclear capability so as to end the confusion that 'Pakistan has already capped or agreed to cap its nuclear programme'. He also stressed the need for diversifying the country's defence programme.

The Jamaat Chief was of the view that during the forthcoming visit of the American Defence Secretary to Pakistan, 'our government' should lay more emphasis on the delivery of the F-16s for which Pakistan had already paid the price to the United States. He thought that Pakistan should now lobby among the Ummah for developing missile technology.

He said Islamabad should act very cautiously as regards its relations with Beijing, in view of the fact that the fence-mending process is going on between China and India. He said at this situation Pakistan should not rely on China vis-a-vis matters related to the national defence.

The Jamaat Chief had serious reservations about the American investments coming in the energy sector. He thought it was a clear move to pressurise Pakistan to roll back its nuclear programme since the country had always taken a stand that it's nuclear programme was only for power generation.

Ahmad Ali Refuses To 'Barter Away' Security

BK2112124594 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 21 Dec 94 pp 1, 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP)—Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali Tuesday [20 December] said Pakistan would neither accept security umbrella not would barter away its security at any cost.

He dispelled the apprehensions about the forthcoming visit of US defence secretary William Perry.

"We cannot accept or barter away our security at any cost to any country. State's supreme responsibility is to defend itself. We cannot accept any arrangement and abrogate the responsibility of national security." Asif said while talking to a group of journalists here. Pakistan, he said, would not accept security umbrella of any country.

Asif said the position of East European countries and the situation Pakistan found itself in South Asia were not comparable. The East Europe did not face the kind of threat being confronted by Pakistan.

Asif said there was no change in Pakistan's principled position on its peaceful nuclear programme. He said Pakistan had been able to sufficiently convince she world that it was a "non-proliferationist state." and that had enhanced its credentials. On the other hand, India had recently opposed a resolution in the UN General Assembly to declare South Asia as nuclear-free zone. He said there appeared to be not enough pressure on India.

"Pakistan cannot be intimidated or bulldozed into doing anything that is against our national interest. We will continue to hold our principled policy" on nuclear issue, the foreign minister said categorically.

On the agenda of talks during the visit of US defence secretary, he said there was a little defence cooperation between the two countries due to the Pressler Amendment. He said F-16 aircraft could not be delivered to Pakistan unless this law was repealed. But if there was to be a one-time waiver given by the US administration, it should be without any conditionalities. "Let the US accept the advice of its own experts", on the issue, he said.

Asif said there were many other areas being identified by both sides for cooperation. He said both US and Pakistan had been working to identify such areas for the past one year. Asif said there was a "sufficient political will on part of US which do not want to lower the level of relationship than in the past." [sentence as published] Pakistan wanted its relations with the US to be multifaceted, he said.

Asif said economic cooperation between the two sides was "very major development between the two countries." With the US multinationals making a big investment here, he said, Pakistan "will have a far greater influence in US" as the private sector was quite influential there.

He said the post-cold war era had turned the world into a "global economy and no state can live in isolation or survive on its own". He said foreign aid's sources were almost dried up while getting credit had become very difficult. Hence in these conditions Pakistan had no options but to invite foreign investment. He said Pakistan's economy did not have the capacity to generate the required resources from within the country.

Asif said Pakistan was ready for talks with India on substantive issues provided the latter took confidence building measures. He said a dialogue between the two countries would be futile if it was not on automotive issues.

The minister said the "ball is in the court of India. The world is telling them to solve the Kashmir dispute." He said Pakistan had no pre-conditions but had asked India to take confidence building measures to pave way for a meaningful talks.

Pakistan has asked India to stop killings in occupied Kashmir, repeal draconian law—necessary to prove that a country believes in rule of law—and allow the Amnesty International to visit the held Kashmir, Asif said.

He said India had not responded our two non-papers, He said if India was not ready to discuss Pakistan's two

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non-papers then their offer of talks was just a ploy and would be an exercise in futility.

On OIC's [ICO] recent summit in Casablanca Asif said it was Pakistan's great achievement that the Kashmir dispute for the first time formed part of an OIC declaration.

Editorial Sees 'Vital' Role for U.S. in Region

BK2212083894 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "A Principled Policy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talking to a group of journalists at Islamabad, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that Pakistan would neither accept the security umbrella of any country nor barter away its security interests at any cost. He added that the situation in East European countries and the one prevailing in Pakistan vis-a-vis South Asia was not comparable as East Europe did not face the kind of threat being confronted by Pakistan. The Foreign Minister dispelled the apprehensions pertaining to the forthcoming visit of US Defence Secretary William Perry and said the supreme responsibility of any state is to defend itself and "we cannot accept any arrangement and abrogate the responsibility of national security."

There has been an improvement in Pak-US relations of late. US investment is coming to Pakistan in a big way. However, for some time defence cooperation between the two countries has suffered because of the Pressler Amendment and the non-delivery of the F-16 aircraft for which Pakistan has already made full payment. Even the US experts have advised their Administration to give a one-time waiver to Islamabad so that the F-16 aircraft can be delivered to Pakistan. As things stand, there has been a major development in Pak-US relations with the US multinationals making a substantive investment in Pakistan. This would enhance Pakistan's influence with the United States as the private sector in that country wields a lot of political clout. Moreover, Pakistan has already succeeded in convincing the world that it has no ambitions of becoming a nuclear power. Pakistan has consistently advocated a non- proliferation regime and proposed that South Asia be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone. On the other hand, India strongly opposes the move. However, despite Indian intransigence, Pakistan will continue to uphold its principled policy of opposing nuclear proliferation. Pakistan is prepared to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) simultaneously with India but New Delhi has rejected the suggestion out of hand. Needless to say, as long as India does not accept the Kashmiris' demand for a genuine plebiscite in Occupied Kashmir, tension in the region cannot subside and peace cannot prevail in the region. It goes without saying that the US as the sole superpower has a vital and constructive role to play in this regard.

Foreign Office Denies Gawadar Port Sold to Oman

BK2212082594 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Dec 94 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad, Dec 21 (APP)—Responding to press reports, speculating that Gawadar harbour was being sold to Oman, a Foreign Office spokesman said that such reports were totally unfounded. He drew attention to Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali's statement on the issue, partly published in the newspapers of Dec 21, ruling out the use of Pakistani soil for any military purposes by any third country.

The spokesman recalled that the Foreign Minister had informed that Pakistan had invited Oman to invest in the development of Gawadar Fishing Port. The Foreign Minister had categorically affirmed that it was the sacred duty of the Government of Pakistan to safeguard and protect the territorial integrity of the country at all costs. Therefore, it could never bargain over its national security.

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